AI YORI AOSHI
藍より青し
4
Kou Fumizuki
TOKYOPOP

藍より青し4

By Kou Fumizuki

藍(あい)より青(あお)し

AI YORI AOSHI™

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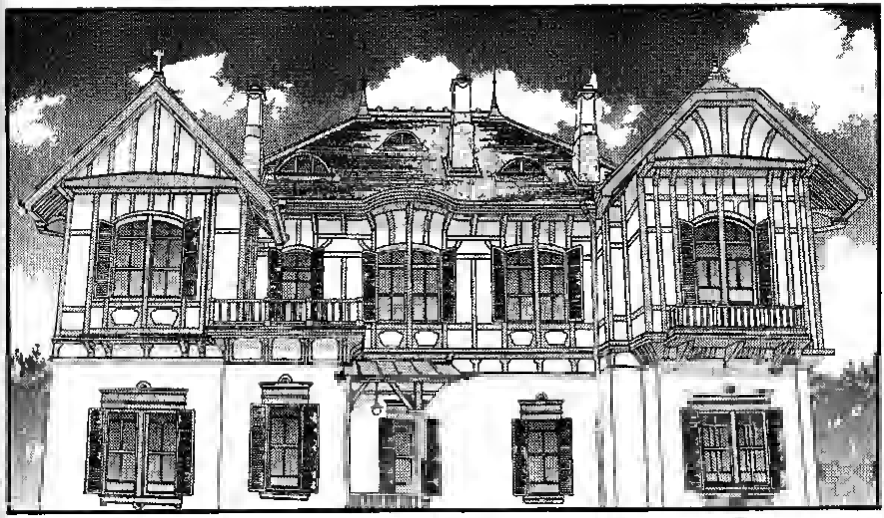
AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 30: KICHOU—RETURN

第三十話　帰朝—きちょう—



I'M FINE.
Kaoru-sama, your collar!
DO YOU HAVE A HANDKERCHIEF IN CASE IT GETS COLD?!

We're only trying to get people to join our club
TODAY IS JUST NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

NO, I'M FINE!!
YOU'RE NOT FORGETTING ANYTHING, ARE YOU?

WHERE ARE TINA AND TAEKO-CHAN?!
THEY WERE UP EARLY, SO THEY WENT ON AHEAD...
They seemed particularly excited about something!
CRAP. I'LL BET THOSE TWO ARE UP TO NO GOOD...
OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
OH! KAORU-SAMA!!
YOU FORGOT...

KAORU-SAMA...
HM?!
キョロ キョロ
HMM?! DID I DROP SOMETHING ...?
チュ♡

かぁぁ…
H-HAVE A GOOD DAY... KAORU-SAMA.
Y-YEAH... YOU TOO...
TAKE CARE!
ろろ～ん

*Signs: Journalism Basket Ball Greek etc Various Clubs

WHAT A SWEET RIDE!
HEY, WHAT THE--?!

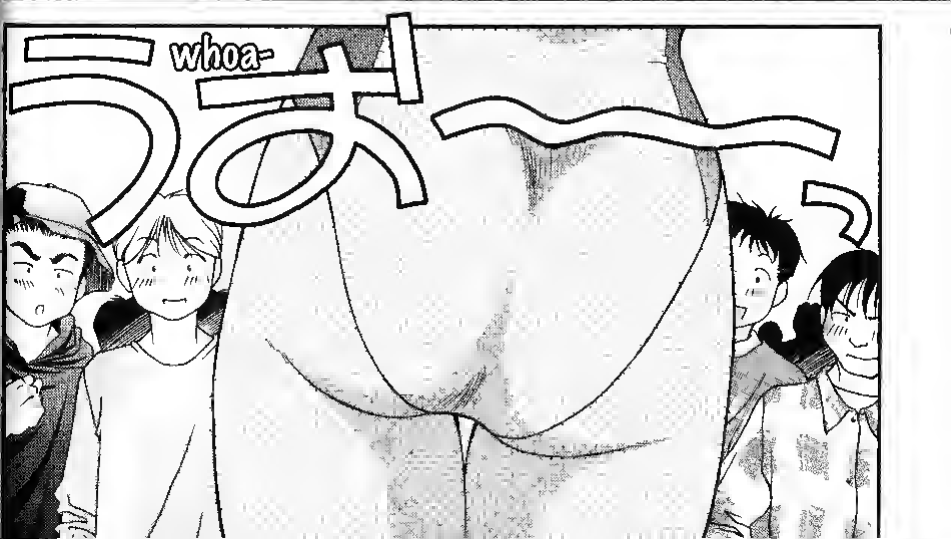
THOSE STUPID LOOKING MEN...
WHAT'S THEIR PROBLEM?
...ARE STILL IN THE WAY.
I IMAGINE THAT THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE AREN'T USED TO SEEING CARS OR PEOPLE OF THIS CLASS.

はあ
sigh...
I MISS BEING IN ENGLAND...
THEY'RE RUDE, FILTHY, AND SIMPLE-MINDED.
HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU WHY I HATE JAPANESE MEN?
ドア
ドン

おお～～
she looks like a French doll.
That dress looks expensive
THIS PLACE IS A TOTAL DUMP.
TO THINK THAT I HAVE TO ATTEND A SCHOOL AS SHABBY AS THIS...
I'M AFRAID IT CAN'T BE HELPED. IT'S YOUR FATHER'S ORDERS.

FEH. ORDERS, SCHMORDERS.
FATHER ALWAYS TREATS MAYU LIKE A CHILD, AND MAYU HATES IT.
AS YOU WISH, MADAM.
THERE AREN'T ANY REAL CLASSES TODAY, RIGHT? LET'S GET THE HELLOS OUT OF THE WAY, SO WE CAN SAY GOOD-BYE.

THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS.
MEIRITU
MEIRITU
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE OUR PICTURE?!


whoa-
うお～

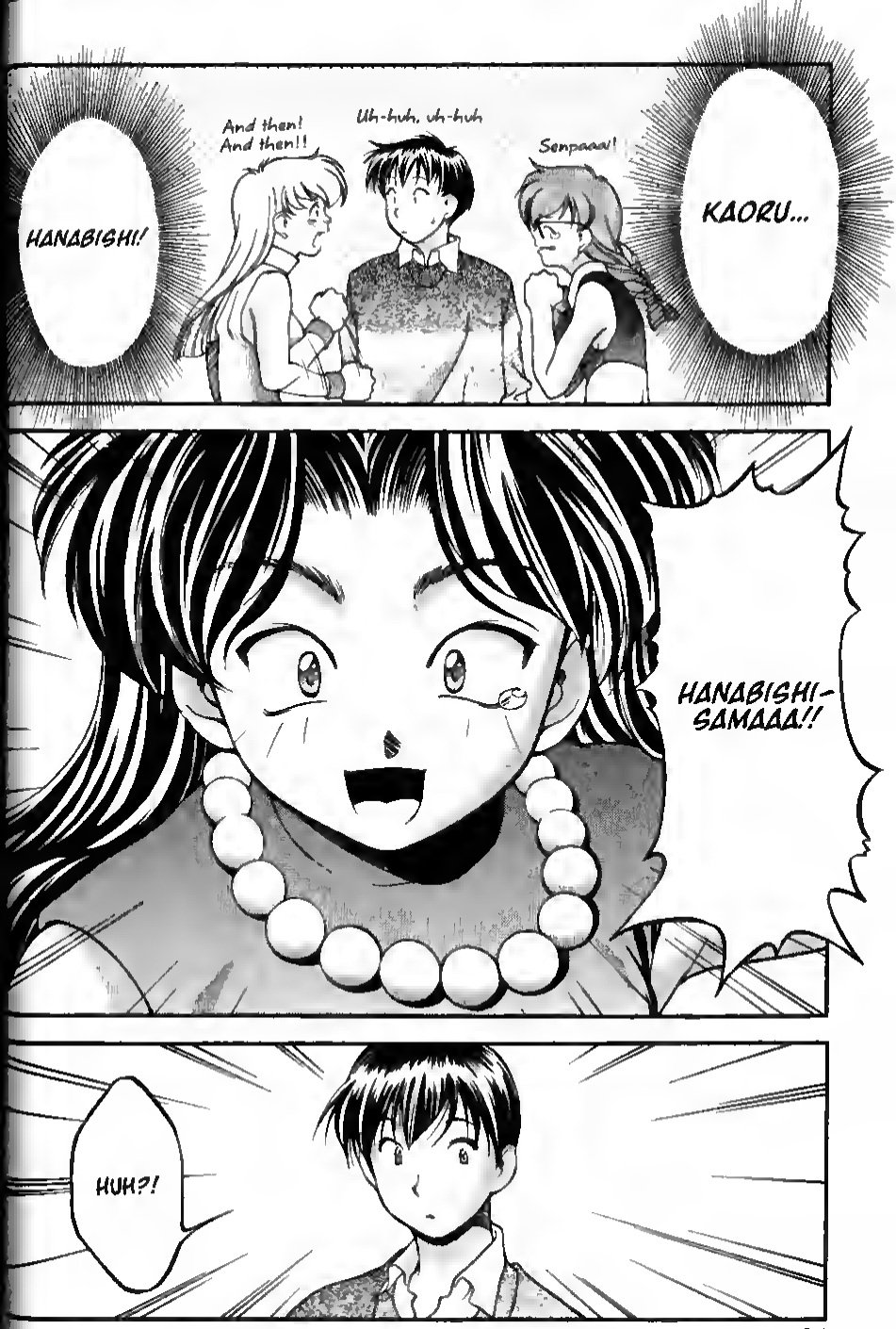
DON'T MAKE US ENJOY THE ART OF PHOTOG-RAPHY ALL BY OUR-SELVES!!
YOU CAN IF YOU REALLY WANT TO. JUST PUT YOUR NAME ON OUR MEMBERS LIST, AND SNAP AWAY!
TINA-SENPAI!!
WRITE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND SCHOOL ID NUM-BER HERE, PLEASE!
DON'T HOG IT, MAN! I WANNA TRY!
I'VE HAD A LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH CAMERAS.

LOOK AT ALL THE NEW MEMBERS WE SCORED!!
ALLLLRIGHT!!
WE'RE UNUSUALLY POPULAR ALL OF A SUDDEN
Just goes to show the power of good marketing!
THE SCHOOL CLUB SCENE IS DOWN TO THE SURVIVAL-OF-THE-FITTEST. WE'RE JUST PROMOTING OUR FITTEST.
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL GET THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO JOIN!!
AH! TINA-SENPAI! LOOK OUT!!

ARE YOU OKAY ?!
WOOPS. I'M SO SORRY!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAYU-OJOU-SAMA?
ojousama- an extremely formal suffix for young women of high class.
*She's actually speaking English. Everyone else speaks Japanese remember?
Hey! Watch Your Step

E-ENGLISH?!
UHH... UM... HOW DO YOU...?
GIVEN HOW RUDE SHE IS, I'D SAY HER NATIONALITY IS OBVIOUS.
SENPAI, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE AN AMERICAN?!
I HAVEN'T SPOKEN ENGLISH IN SO LONG, I CAN HARDLY REMEMBER HOW
WHAT?!

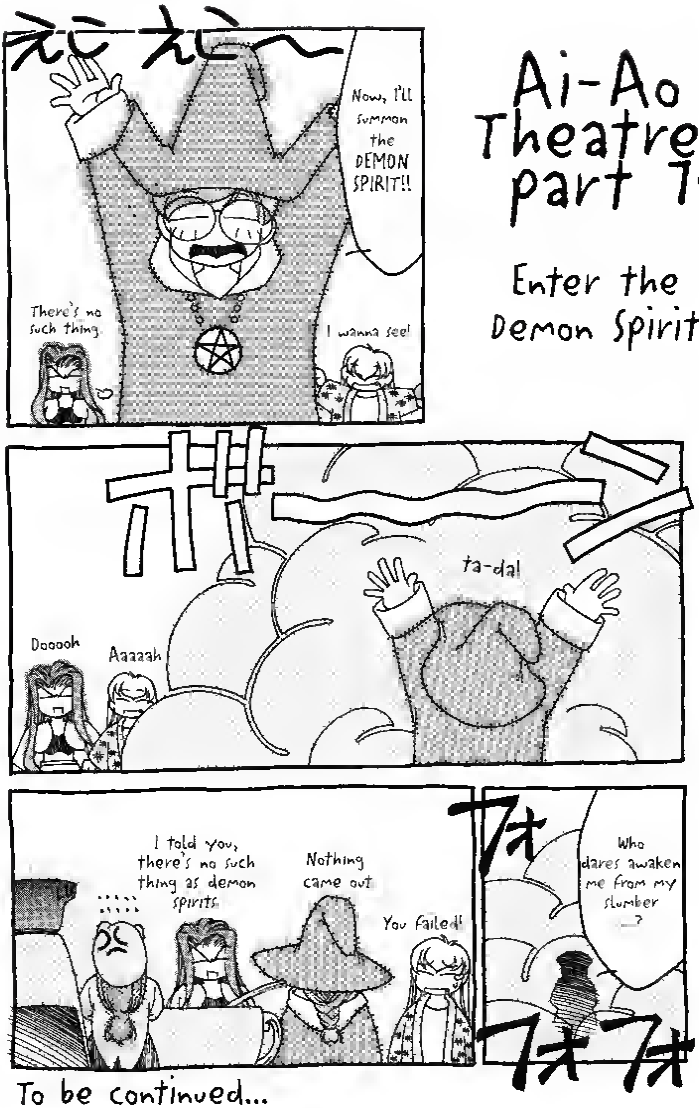
キョロ キョロ
UH-OH!!
THIS IS ABOUT TO GO PEAR-SHAPED, ISN'T IT?
HEYYYY! HANABISHI! WE'RE OVER HERE!!
!!
KAORUUUU! THIS GIRL, SHE...
あう～
HUH?! TINA, IS SOME-THING WRONG?
SORRY I'M LATE.
HANA-BISHI?!
KAORU..?


HANABISHI!
And then! And then!!
Uh-huh, uh-huh
Senpaaa!
KAORU...
HANABISHI-SAMAAA!!
HUH?!

End of Chapter 30: Kichou—Return

Ai-Ao Theatre, part 1:

Enter the Demon Spirit



To be continued...

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

HERE'S THE NEXT VOLUME
FOR YOU. HOPE YOU
ENJOY IT

GUESS WHO TINA-SAN
BUMPS INTO?

VOLUME 4 STARTS— NOW

藍より青し

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CHAPTER 31: MAYU—COCOON

第三十一話　繭—まゆ—

NNNNNN ♡
Gaaaaaahh
HANABISHI-SAMA ! ♡
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ATTENDING THIS SCHOOL, HANABISHI-SAMA.
HUH ?!
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT? WE REALLY ARE BOUND BY THE RED STRING OF DESTINY.
EH?!
UHHH ?!
MAYU'S SO HAPPY !!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MISSY!!
I'M JUST SAYING HELLO, OBVIOUSLY.
TRYING TO PULL...?
Why are you using Hakata dialect?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL WITH KAORU HERE?!
もじ…
I-I'M...
!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH HANABISHI-SAMA!?!
……
I-I'M KAORU'S…

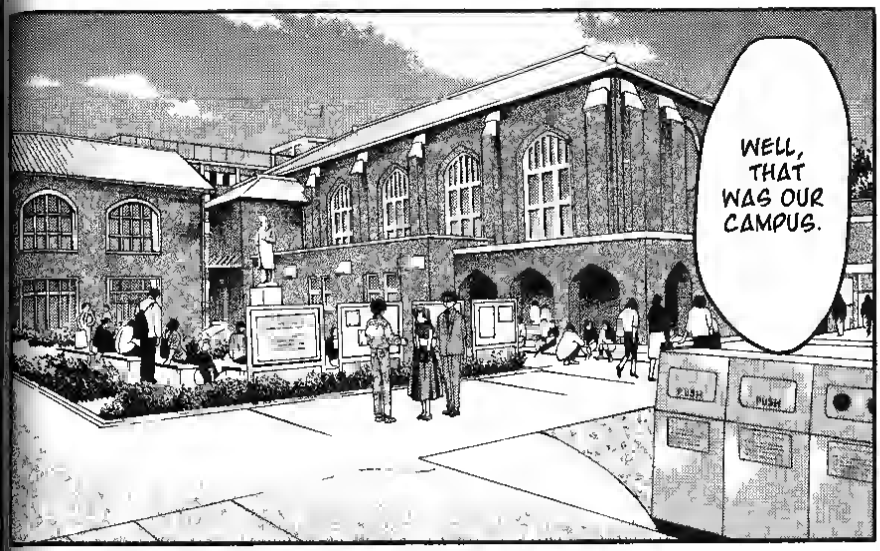
AAAH!! ARE YOU MAYU MIYUKI-CHAN?!
ぽく
ぽくぽく
OMIGOSH! YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH! I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT ALL.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, HANABISHI-SAMA! ♡
TINA-SENPAI, WEREN'T YOU ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING?!
FORGET IT! IT'S NOTHING!!
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?!
FOUR
Tee hee!
FOUR YEARS THAT MEANS YOU'RE SIXTEEN NOW?

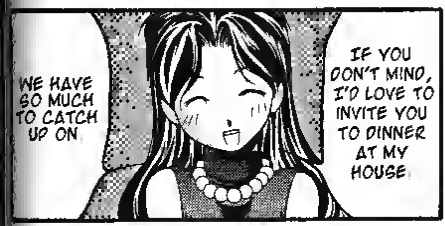
SHE'S KIND OF STUBBORN...
...BUT DEEP DOWN, SHE'S REALLY A TOTAL SWEET-HEART.
YEAH
YOU KNOW THAT GIRL?!
HEY, KAORU!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE SAID, BUT CAN YOU FORGIVE HER?
OH, YEAH... BY THE WAY...
!!
LO
...AS LONG AS YOU APOL-OGIZE
IT'S NO BIG DEAL
BUT
YOU SURE HAVE A KNACK FOR TICKING PEOPLE OFF.
MAYU-CHAN!!
.....
I PROBABLY SAID MORE THAN I SHOULD HAVE.
I-I'M REALLY SORRY.

はぁ～～～～。
ONCE AGAIN, PEACE RETURNS TO OUR SCHOOL.
AND I'M SORRY FOR BUMPING INTO YOU.
O-OKAY.
HANABISHI-SAMA!!
SURE, BUT YOU HAVE TO GET OFF ME.
NOT A CHANCE!
WILL YOU SHOW ME AROUND CAMPUS?!

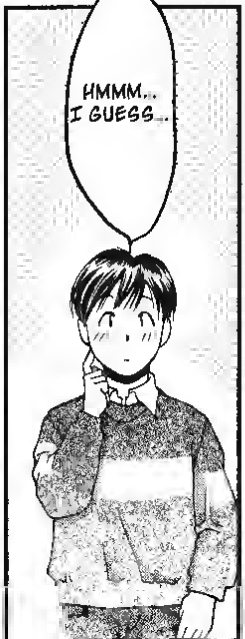
WHAAA --?!
I'M A NEW STUDENT HERE.
MAYU-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HANGING AROUND MY SCHOOL, ANYWAY?
ニコ
BUT, MAYU-CHAN, YOU'RE ONLY SIXTEE--
THIS UNIVERSITY HAS A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO'VE STUDIED ABROAD.
WHEN I WAS LIVING IN ENGLAND, I SKIPPED TWO GRADES AND GRADUATED EARLY.

I WANTED TO GET BACK TO JAPAN AS QUICKLY AS I COULD, SO I PUT EVERY-THING INTO MY STUDIES
WOW. THAT'S AMAZING
BUT DID YOU REALLY HATE ENGLAND THAT MUCH, MAYU-CHAN?
NO WAY! I LOVE ENGLAND. PEOPLE LIVE WITH PASSION, AND THEY ACT CAREFREE
EVEN SO--
--IT'S STILL NOT JAPAN. ENGLAND IS ENGLAND, AND IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME. THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT'S SPECIAL TO ME.
I STUDIED LIKE A MANIAC SO I COULD GET BACK HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HMM...
Something in Japan, eh?


WELL, THAT WAS OUR CAMPUS.


WE HAVE SO MUCH TO CATCH UP ON.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LOVE TO INVITE YOU TO DINNER AT MY HOUSE.

NOT REALLY. I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS TODAY.
HANA-BISHI-SAMA, DO YOU NEED TO BE ANY-WHERE?


HMMM.. I GUESS..

SO YOU'RE GOING OUT TO DINNER?
YES... YES, ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU, UM...
SEE YOU LATER.
I'M NOT SURE WHEN I'LL BE GETTING HOME. PROBABLY LATE.
YEAH... I TOLD TAEKO-CHAN AND TINA.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. I MET AN OLD FRIEND.
I AM MAYU-SAMA'S CHAPERONE. IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
RUKA SAIONJI.

AMAZING... SHE'S GROWN SO MUCH...
...BUT SHE REALLY HASN'T CHANGED.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MAYU-SAMA HAD FRIENDS HERE IT'S RARE TO SEE HER PUT HER TRUST IN ANYONE BESIDES HER PARENTS
MAYU-SAMA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A LONELY CHILD, HASN'T SHE?
WHAT ARE MY TWO GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
COME ON, LET'S GO!!
HANABISHI-SAMA, PLEASE BE A FRIEND TO MAYU-SAMA
HANA-BISHI-SAMA~~!!

HE'S THE MEANEST GUY IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
PAPA...
THE ONLY REASON HE TOOK ME ABROAD WAS SO THAT I COULD LEARN ENGLISH AND SOCIALIZE WITH ALL OF HIS FOREIGN CLIENTS! HE SELFISHLY PLUCKED ME OUT OF SCHOOL HERE...
...AND WHEN I GRADUATED, HE SHIPPED ME BACK, AND TOLD ME WHAT COLLEGE I'D BE GOING TO.
HE DECIDED IT ALL HIMSELF. HE DOESN'T EVEN CARE WHAT I WANT.

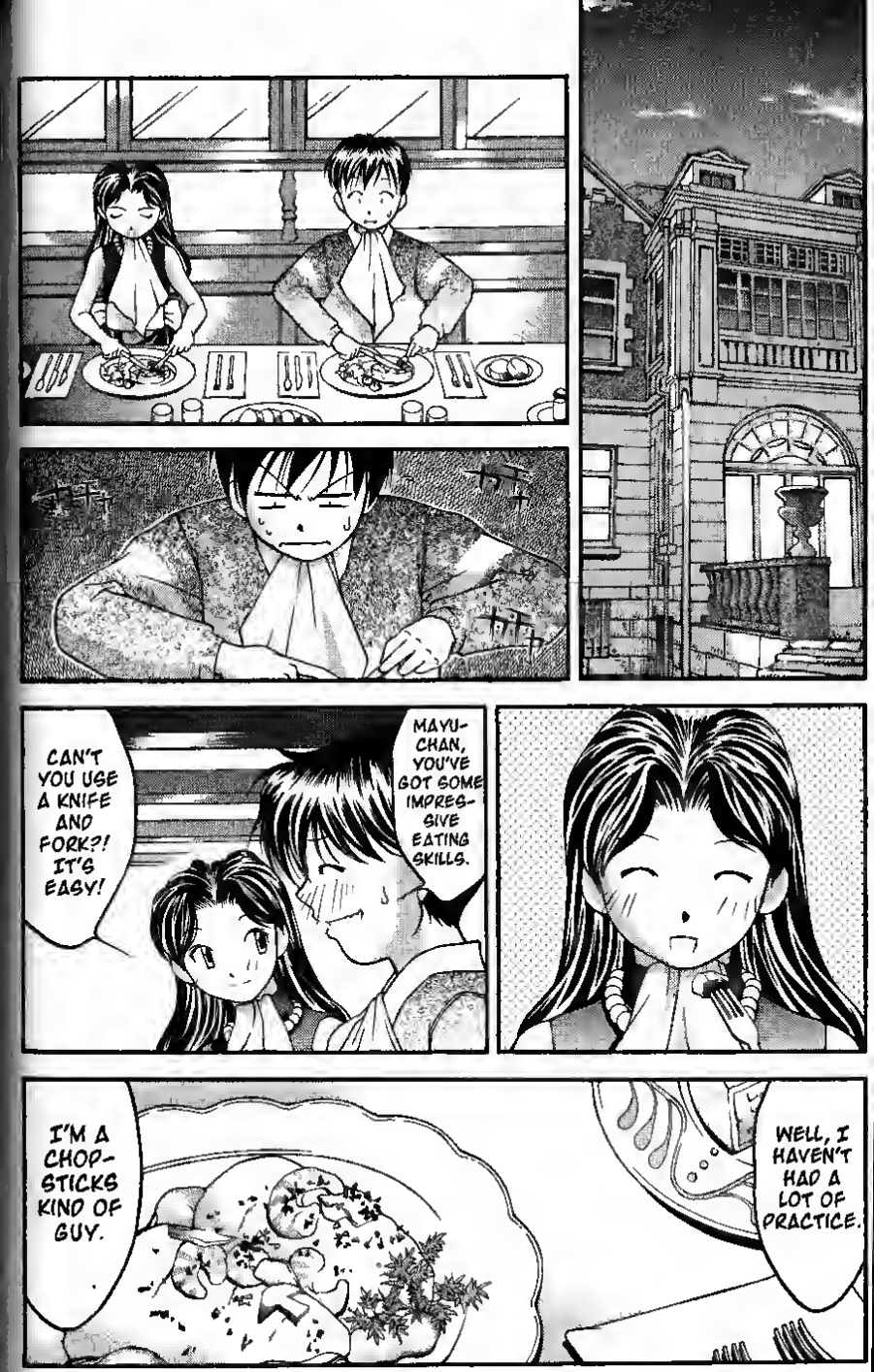
YEAH, I GUESS THERE IS THAT...
WELL, AT LEAST YOUR FAMILY IS DOING FINE AND PROSPERING.
...AND MAMA IS BUSY DESIGNING CLOTHES FOR THE LEADERS IN ALL THE COUNTRIES HE VISITS, SO SHE'S RARELY HOME, EITHER.
PAPA TRAVELS THE WORLD, KEEPING THE FAMILY BUSINESS IN ORDER...
.....
IT'S RARE THAT I SEE THEM, AND WHEN I DO, ALL THEY DO IS SCOLD ME AND MAKE ME WISH THEY'D LEAVE AGAIN.
THAT'S JUST A CONVOLUTED WAY TO SAY THEY'RE WORKA-HOLICS!
YOUR MOTHER'S DESIGNS ARE WORLD-FAMOUS, AND THEY KEEP YOUR FAMILY IN THE LIME-LIGHT.
YEAH, BUT THE COMPANY HAS BEEN MAKING CLOTHES SINCE THE EDO ERA. YOUR FATHER'S THE PRESIDENT! THAT'S A BIG DEAL!

*Edo Era: 1603-1868

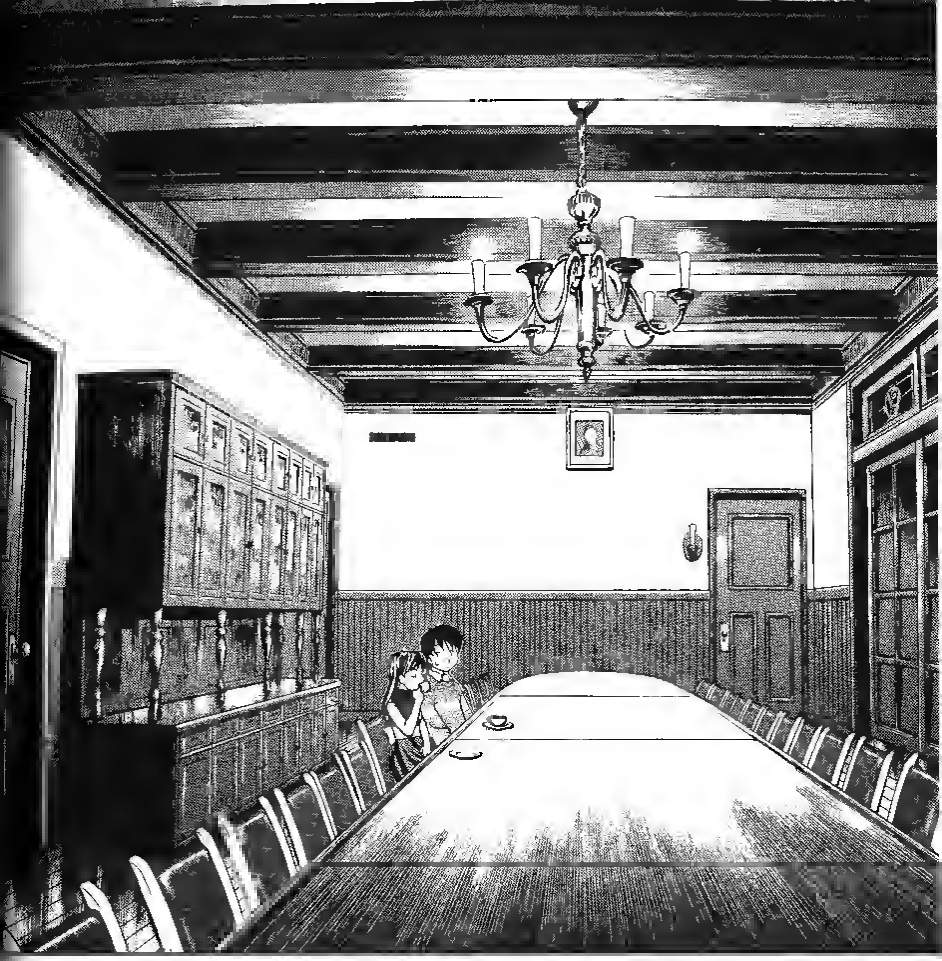
ブオォォォ
I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN A LONG TIME, BUT IT'S STILL...

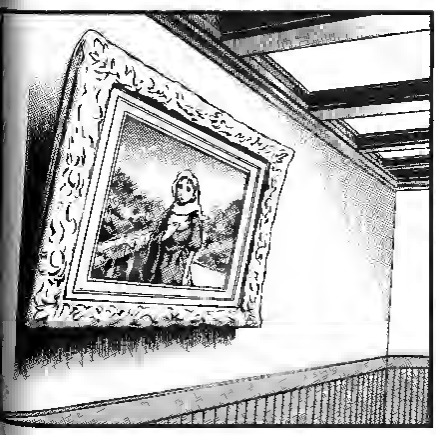
...REALLY HUGE...

OOOH!
IT'S NOT NEARLY AS BIG AS YOUR HOUSE, HANABISHI-SAMA.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
THIS ROOM IS GIGANTIC!!
HANA-BISHI-SAMA!!
EH?!
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
YEAH, SURE.
YAYYYY!!


MAYU-CHAN, YOU'VE GOT SOME IMPRES-SIVE EATING SKILLS.
CAN'T YOU USE A KNIFE AND FORK?! IT'S EASY!
WELL, I HAVEN'T HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE.
I'M A CHOP-STICKS KIND OF GUY.

I'M TOTALLY OUT OF PRACTICE WHEN IT COMES TO CHOPSTICKS.
WOW, REALLY?
DO YOU USUALLY EAT WITH SAIONJI-SAN?!
NO...
...I'M USUALLY BY MYSELF
HUH?! BY YOURSELF...?





IS SOME-THING WRONG?!
IT'S NOTHING.
AH... NO.
ISN'T THAT FUNNY?
THE SQUIRRELS OVER THERE KIND OF REMINDED ME OF THE PIGEONS IN JAPAN.
WHEN I WAS IN ENGLAND, I LIKED TO WATCH THE SQUIRRELS AT THE PARK.
I'M SORRY, MAYU-CHAN, I--
I WAS SO SUR-PRISED, I FELL OVER!
AND ONE TIME TH-THEN THIS SQUIRREL JUMPED ON ME...
WHOA! I DION'T REALIZE IT WAS SO LATE!
MAYU-CHAN...
AND THEN, AND THEN...

I... I REALLY HAVE TO GO...
BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED TELLING YOU MY STORY!!
コチ
コチ コチ
PLEASE, DON'T GO!!
DON'T LEAVE... PLEASE... STAY FOR A WHILE... PLEASE...

End of Chapter 31: Mayu—Cocoon

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

A GREETING KISS FROM A CUTE GIRL IS ALWAYS NICE.

HERE'S THE NEXT CHAPTER OF VOLUME 4.

THE KISSING STARTS NOW

藍より青し
AI YORI AOSHI

CHAPTER 32: KOEI—SOLITUDE
第三十二話　孤影—こえい—

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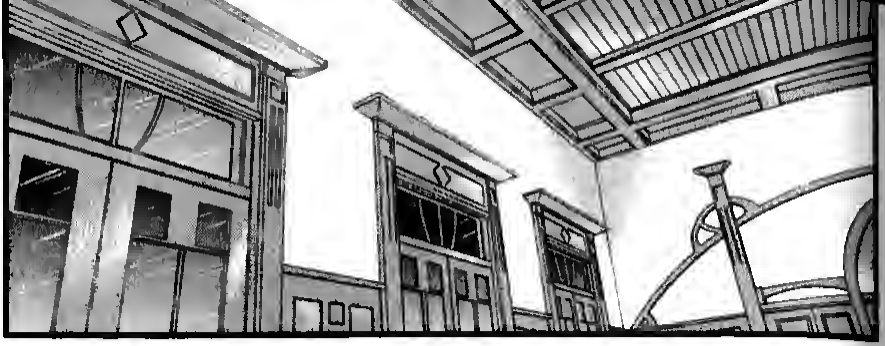
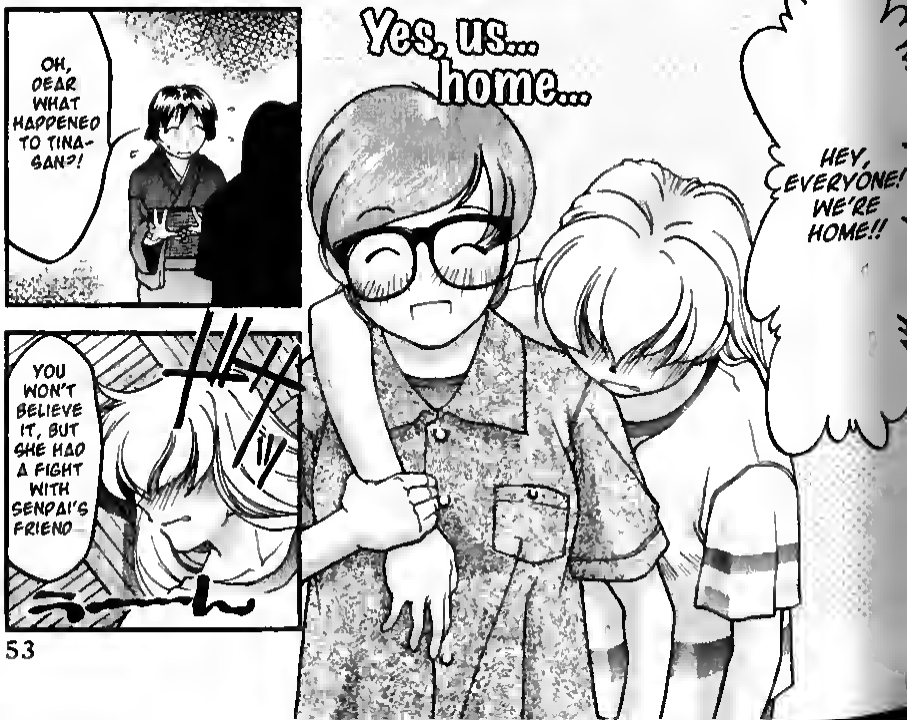
ハァ
ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…

HE'S LATE... KAORU-SAMA'S NEVER LATE.
Sigh...
YES, AOI-SAMA'S HERE, BUT SHE'S IN YOUR ROOM HANG ON FOR A SECOND...
OH, KAORU-DONO
HELLO, SAKURABA RESIDENCE
NEVER MIND. HERE SHE IS...
That was fast
huff
huff
huff
huff
IS IT KAORU-SAMA?!

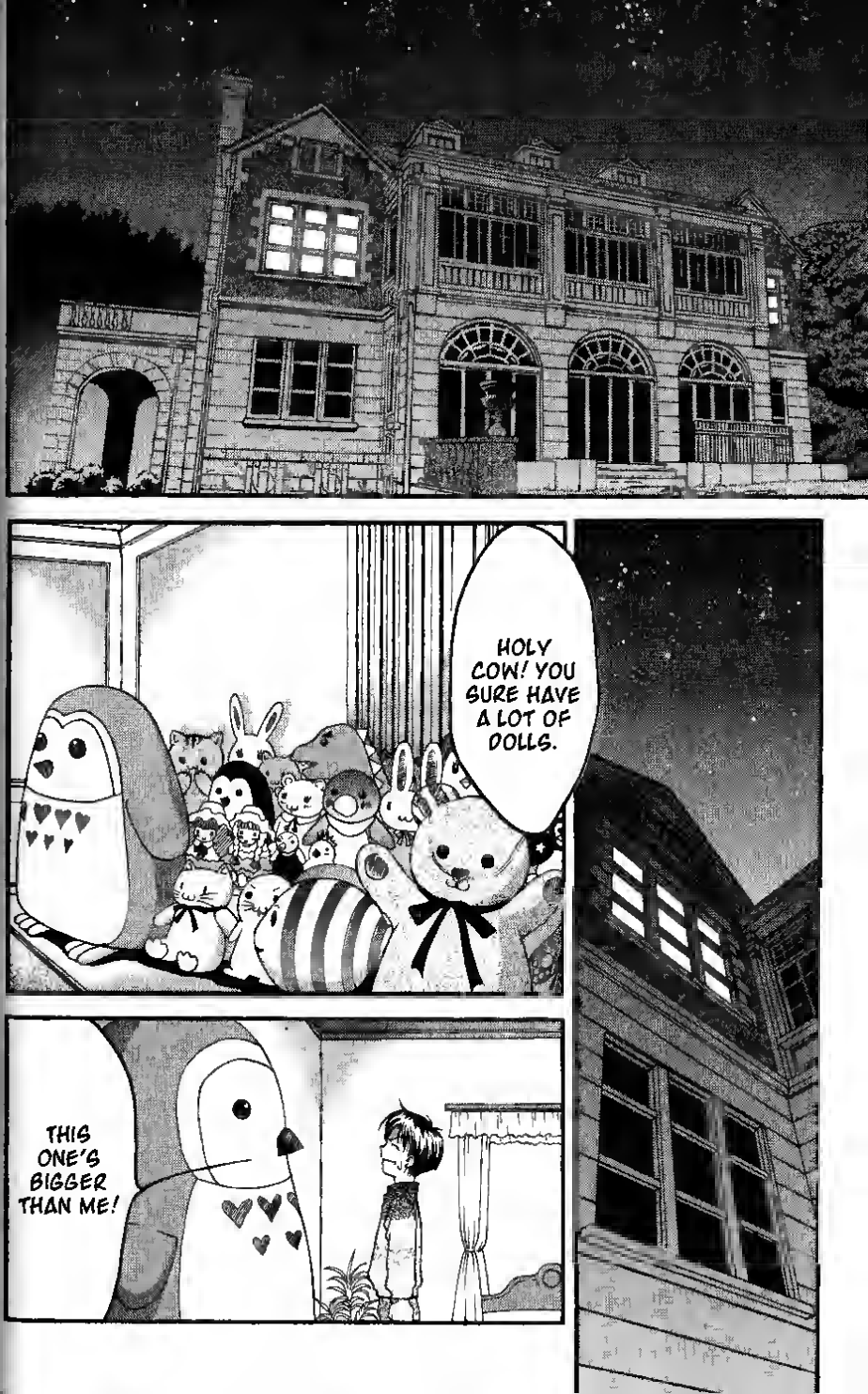
HEY, AOI, IT'S ME...
I'M SORRY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE STAYING THE NIGHT AT MY FRIEND'S HOUSE.
UH-HUH... I SEE...
I'LL COME STRAIGHT HOME AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW EVENING.
OKAY... I UNDERSTAND. GOOD NIGHT.
KAORU-DONO ISN'T COMING HOME TONIGHT?
NO..
IT'S GOING TO BE WEIRD WITHOUT HIM.
ALMOST LONELY.




OH, DEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO TINA-SAN?!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT SHE HAD A FIGHT WITH SENPAI'S FRIEND
Yes, us... home...
HEY, EVERYONE! WE'RE HOME!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, STUPID KAORU!?!
TINA-SENPAI HAS BEEN DRINKING HERSELF INTO THIS MOOD EVER SINCE
I GUESS SOMEONE NEEDS TO PUT OUR PARTY GIRL TO BED.
Good night!
THE FIGHT WASN'T AS MUCH OF A SURPRISE AS...
...SEEING THAT GIRL KISS SENPAI ON THE LIPS.
.....WHAT?!

His friend?! She's a girl?!
Sh- she kissed him...?!!
KAORU-SAMA?!
HOW COULD HE...? WHY WOULD HE...?


HOLY COW! YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF DOLLS.
THIS ONE'S BIGGER THAN ME!

Here's your present, Mayu!
EVER SINCE, PAPA HAS ALWAYS GIVEN ME DOLLS AND STUFFED ANIMALS.
Ga-ha-ha!
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I BEGGED AND BEGGED FOR A DOLL...
PAPA BOUGHT THIS ONE FOR ME WHEN I TURNED EIGHT.
THAT ONE WAS A PRESENT FOR MY FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY.
THE ONE ON THE LEFT WAS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM WHEN I TURNED ELEVEN.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT I'M NO LONGER LITTLE.
THAT'S MY PAPA...
TELL HIM ONE THING, AND THAT'S ALL HE'LL EVER HEAR.

WOO-HOO!!
HMMM, OKAY... THIS ONE.
WHAT THE--? I LOST AGAIN!
WHICH ROOM AM I STAYING IN?!
IT'S LATE, WE SHOULD QUIT.
SAY WHAT?! WOULDN'T THAT BE KIND OF... BAD?!
THIS ONE... ♡
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, HANABISHI-SAMA!!
NOO-OOOO!! MAYU WANTS TO SLEEP WITH HANABISHI-SAMA!!

ONCE SHE FALLS ASLEEP, I'LL SNEAK OUT.
エハ
フ
HMM?!
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
MAYU WAS SELFISH AND PUT YOU OUT...
...HANABISHI-SAMA.

MAYU IS A BAD GIRL, AND WHEN SHE'S BAD, SHE NEEDS TO BE PUNISHED. MAYU NEEDS TO BE SCOLDED...
SILLY, SILLY RABBIT...
GOOD NIGHT, HANA-BISHI-SAMA.
G'-NIGHT, SILLY.
COME ON, NOW, WHO SAYS YOU'RE BAD?

...REALLY LOVES THIS BUNNY.
COULD IT BE? SHE STILL....
USSAA ...?
HERE, YOU GO. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN WANTING IT, AND I JUST COULDN'T RESIST MY LITTLE GIRL.
OHHHH! THANK YOU, PAPA!! THANK YOU!

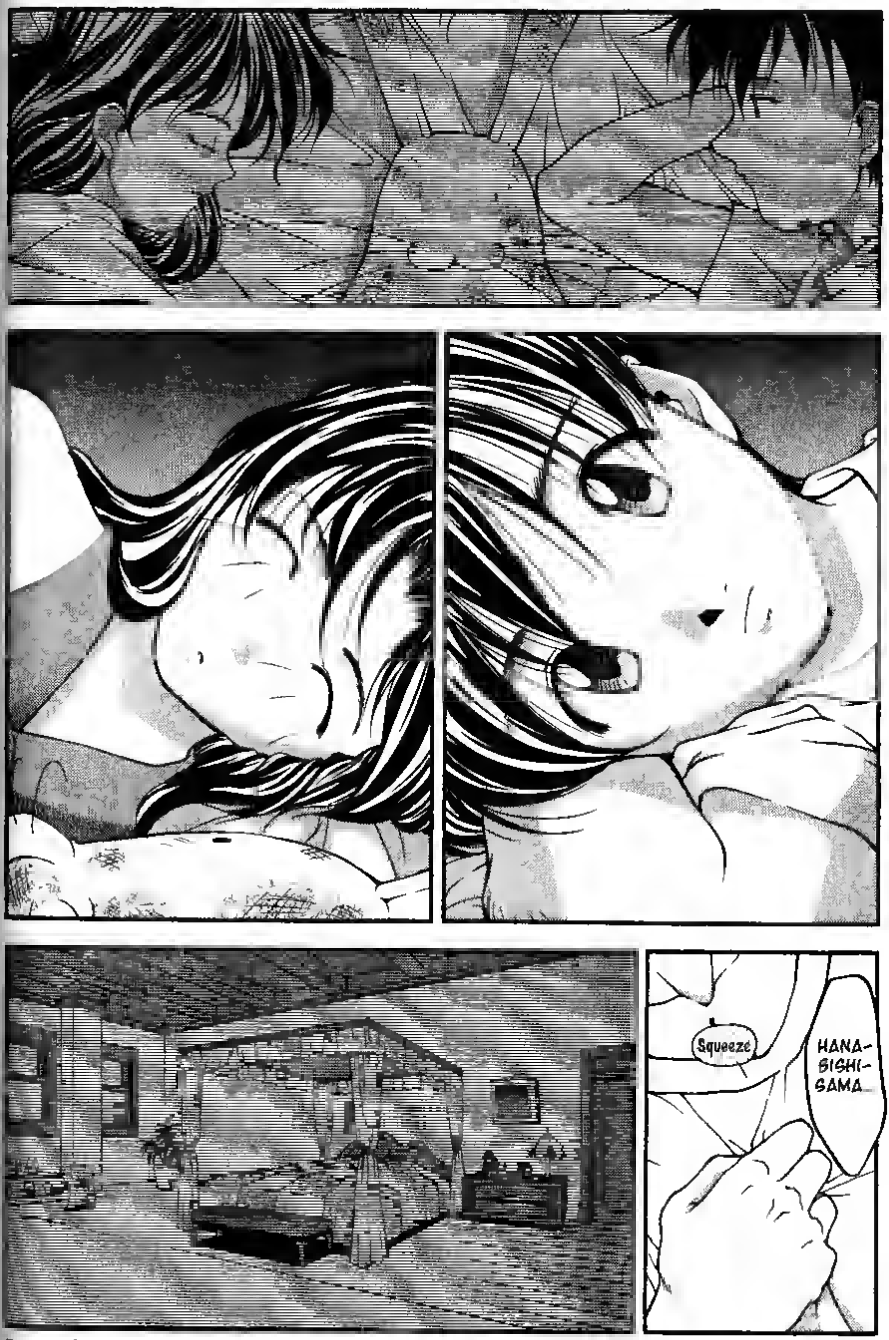
PRESIDENT MIYUKI!!!
BUT THIS TIME WE'LL ONLY BE GONE FOR A MONTH, SO YOU'LL BARELY EVEN NOTICE.
WE'RE SORRY WE HAVE TO LEAVE TOMORROW.
ISN'T THAT NICE, MAYU-CHAN?
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT IT'S FOR YOUR ELEVENTH BIRTHDAY.
UH-HUH BUT WHAT ABOUT MAYU'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?!
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO MIYUKI FABRICS' 150TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.
AAH, WELL, WELL...

PAAAPA! MAAAMA!! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL?
MAYU-CHAN, WE'RE HAVING A VERY IMPORTANT CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW.
Here, drink this.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER
HEY, PAPA! MAYU GOT 100% ON A TEST!
MAMA, MAYU'S FRIENDS, Y'KNOW, MY BIRTHDAY PARTY...

MAYU!! THE CHAIR-MAN OF THE SCHOOL BOARD IS HERE COME SAY HELLO

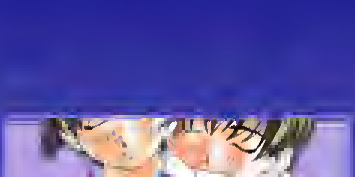
MAYU?!
AH...
MAYU-CHAN!!

I'M SORRY FOR MY DAUGHTER'S TERRIBLE BEHAVIOR.
NO...
...DON'T GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT.


Squeeze
HANA-
BISHI-
SAMA...

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

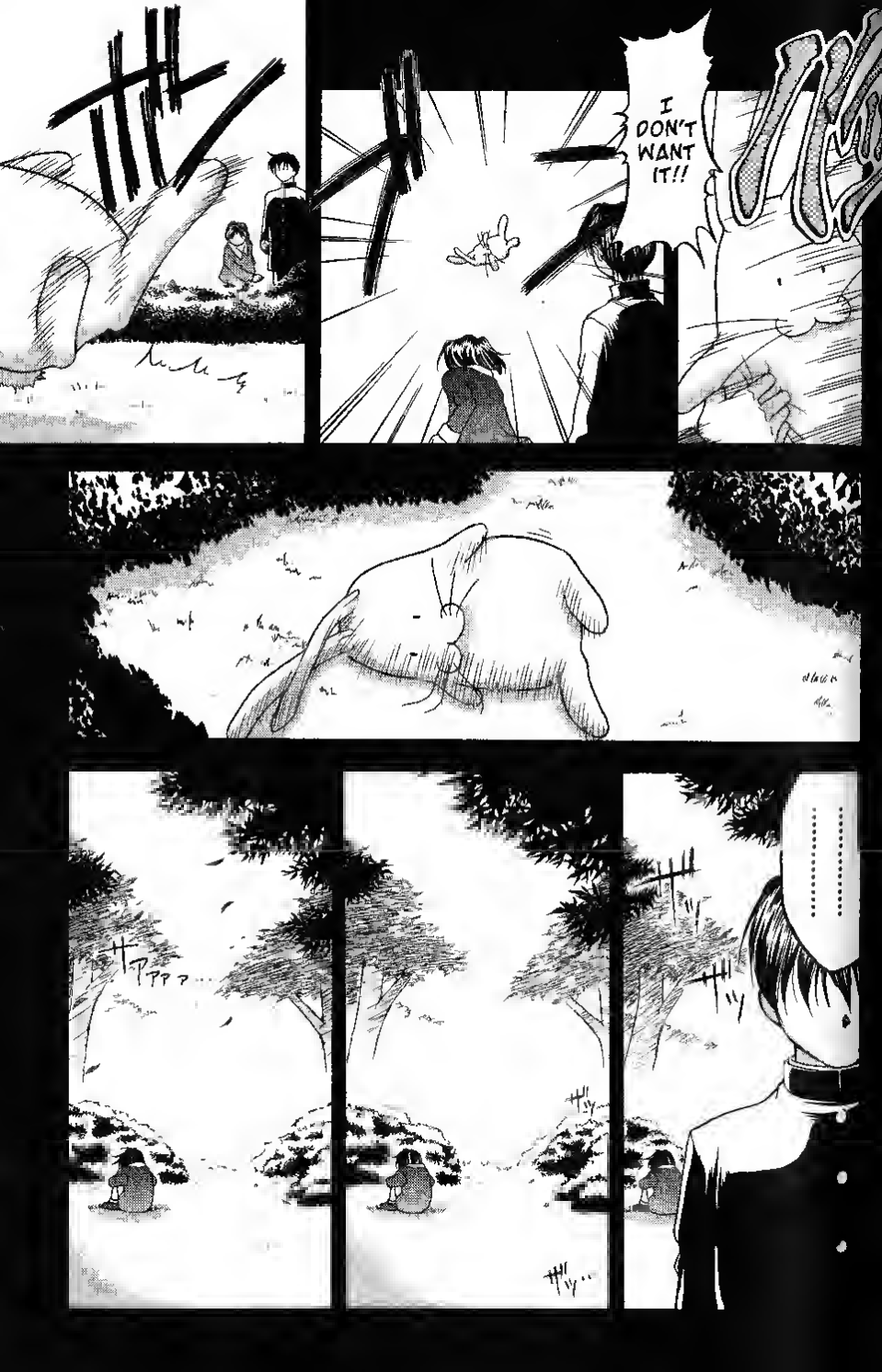
A DANGEROUS SLEEPOVER AND
A VERY LONELY RICH GIRL



藍より青し
AI YORI AOSHI
第三十三話 傀儡 ―くぐつ―
CHAPTER 33 KUGUTSU PUPPET

MAYU-CHAA~AN...
HEY~Y, MAYU-CHAA~AN...
AW, MAN.. I'M COMPLETELY TRAPPED. SHE HAS ME PINNED DOWN.

IT'S YOURS, ISN'T IT?
HERE YOU GO
!!
I DON'T CARE!!
IT'S JUST SOME STUPID THING MY PAPA BOUGHT!!
I TOLD YOU I DON'T CARE!!
I'M SORRY...I THOUGHT YOU'D DROPPED IT


I DON'T WANT IT!!
……

HELLO HELLO!!
N-NOTHING. I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING
WHAT'S A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
HOWDY!!
MY NAME IS USSAA!!
STUPID ME! I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF!

DIDJA KNOW I HOPPED MY WAY OVER HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO PLAY WITH YOU?
So don't be mean to me!
MAYU-CHAN, EH? YOU'RE RIGHT, YOUR NAME'S BETTER
MAYU... MIYUKI
OH, YEAH? WHAT'S YOUR NAME THEN?!
PFF...
THAT'S A DUMB NAME
.....
MAYU-CHAN'S PAPA VERY CAREFULLY CHOSE ME FROM A LOT OF OTHER TOYS
PFFT. I...I... HATE PAPA
HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO FIND THE BEST BUNNY IN THE BUNCH
IT'S BECAUSE MAYU-CHAN'S PAPA LOVES HER VERY MUCH
...AND WHEN HE COMES BACK, HE WON'T TALK TO MAYU AT ALL.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN SIX MONTHS ...
HOW COME ?!

HE WON'T EVEN COME TO MAYU'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.
WHENEVER MY FRIENDS HAVE PARTIES, THEIR PARENTS ARE ALWAYS THERE.
AND AT THE PIANO RECITAL, ALL THE OTHER PARENTS TOLD THEIR KIDS HOW WELL THEY DID.
BUT NO ONE SAID THAT TO MAYU!!
第64回ピアノ発
NO ONE EVEN LISTENED TO MAYU!!

YOU'RE LUCKY...
PAPA AND MAMA WON'T DO ANYTHING WITH MAYU!
THEY DON'T LOVE MAYU!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS, USSAA?
SOME OF US DON'T HAVE A PAPA OR A MAMA.
EH?!
THEY'RE GONE
.....
THEN FRANCE... OOH! ENGLAND!!
NO...
NO FARTHER THAN THAT.
ARE THEY IN AMERICA OR CANADA?!
GONE...? OH! WHAT COUNTRY ARE THEY IN? MAYU'S PAPA AND MAMA LEAVE JAPAN ALL THE TIME.

WHERE MY MAMA AND PAPA HAVE GONE, THEY'LL NEVER COME BACK.
FARTHER THAN FRANCE. EVEN FARTHER THAN ENGLAND.

THAT'S WHY I UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS FOR YOU. BECAUSE... I'M ALWAYS ALONE
BEING ALONE IS THE SADDEST FEELING IN THE WORLD. IT'S TORTURE...

BUT YOUR PAPA AND MAMA LOVE YOU VERY MUCH, MAYU-CHAN.
THEY LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANY-ONE ELSE IN THE WHOLE WORLD.
SO DON'T HATE THEM. DON'T WASTE THE TIME YOU HAVE.
I WANT YOU TO LOVE THEM.
OKAY, MAYU-CHAN?

WAAAHH!

YOU'LL COME BACK TO PLAY WITH ME AGAIN, RIGHT?!
SEE YOU LATER, MAYU-CHAN!!
Thank you.
No, no.
MAYU WILL WAIT FOR YOU UM...BUT WHO ARE YOU?
OF COURSE TRY'N STOP ME.

I'M KAORU.
KAORU HANABISHI.
HANABISHI... SAMA...

UGHI
LOOK AT YOU TWO. IT'S LIKE YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS.
MUSIC STATION
放送
NAH, I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP 'S ALL..
DID YOU GET PLASTERED LAST NIGHT, TOO?!
Uuuhhhhh
UHHHHHHHHHH
TINA-SENPAI HAS A WICKED HANG-OVER.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TAEKO-CHAN?! THERE WASN'T ANY FUNNY BUSINESS TRUST ME.
YOU DIRTY DOG. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
Plop
YOU STAYED AT THAT GIRL'S HOUSE LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T. YOU HAVE TOO MANY THINGS TO DO TODAY TO PLAY AROUND!
NOOOOOO! MAYU'S GOING TO COLLEGE TO BE WITH HANABISHI-SAMA!!
EVEN SO, I'M KIND OF GLAD MAYU-CHAN'S NOT COMING BY TODAY.
Noooo!
Uh... that girl kissed Senpai...
TINA-'SENPAI, HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN ANYONE A BIG KISS HELLO?!
OH, YEAH I KEEP FORGET-TING TO ASK YOU ...

Good morning, Kaoruuuu!
EH?!
MEIRITU
Don't be gross! Icky germs!
?!
W-WHY WOULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?!

パパ
パパ
ママ

Sigh...
I WONDER WHO HIS "FRIEND" IS...
カラ〜ん
It looks delicious.
WE'RE HAVING TEMPURA? FANTASTIC! THEY LOOK SO GOOD I COULD KISS THE COOK!
うーん
STOP IT, AOI!! PUT THOSE AWFUL THOUGHTS OUT OF YOUR HEAD. BE STRONG!
N-NO... IT'S NOTHING.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, AOI-SAMA?

TO ALL THE READERS WHO SUPPORT AI YORI AOSHI EVERY ISSUE, I JUST WANTED TO SAY...
...THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR POLL TO DETERMINE WHO THE MOST POPULAR CHARACTERS ARE.
藍より青し
AI YORI AOSHI
WE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 3,316 VOTES. ISN'T THAT AMAZING?
I'M VERY EXCITED TO HEAR WHO MADE #1
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WASN'T ME...
OF COURSE NUMBER ONE WILL BE MAYU!!
HOW COULD THAT BE? NO ONE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE YET!
No way am I losing to you!!
Aww
YOU THINK SO, HUH?!
Aahhh! Kaoru-sama!
AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, THE VOTING RESULTS...

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

Number 4: Kaoru Hanabishi, 144 votes
Number 2: Tina Foster, 611 votes
Number 3: Tacko Minazuki, 342 votes
Number 6: Miyabi Kagurazaki, 98 votes
Number 7: Aoi's grand mother, 14 votes
Number 8: Aoi's mother, 11 votes
Number 9: Ferret, 9 votes
Number 10: Club President Suzuki, 2 votes
Number 5: Mayu Miyuki, 102 votes
Number 1: Aoi Sakuraba, 1,983 votes

CHAPTER 34: SEPPUN—KISS

第三十四話　接吻—せっぷん—

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

CHAPTER 34: SEPPUN—KISS
WE REALLY RECRUITED A LOT OF NEW MEMBERS!
OW OW OW OW! I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN ALL DAY. MY LEGS ARE KILLING ME!
I'LL INITIATE ALL THE NEW MEMBERS. DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING.
YEAH...
I KNOW! THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB IS GOING TO BE SO MUCH FUN NOW!
HOPEFULLY WE SIGNED UP SOME KIDS WHO ARE MORE COORDINATED.
I WISH SHE MADE IT EASIER NOT TO WORRY.
OW
SENPAI!!
YEAH?!

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST KISS?!
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
COME ON! TELL ME!
NO WAY! DON'T TELL ME THAT ONE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? OF COURSE NOT!!
YOU'RE RIGHT THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR FIRST KISS.
I NEVER SAID IT WAS!
ALTHOUGH IT WAS PRETTY RECENT...

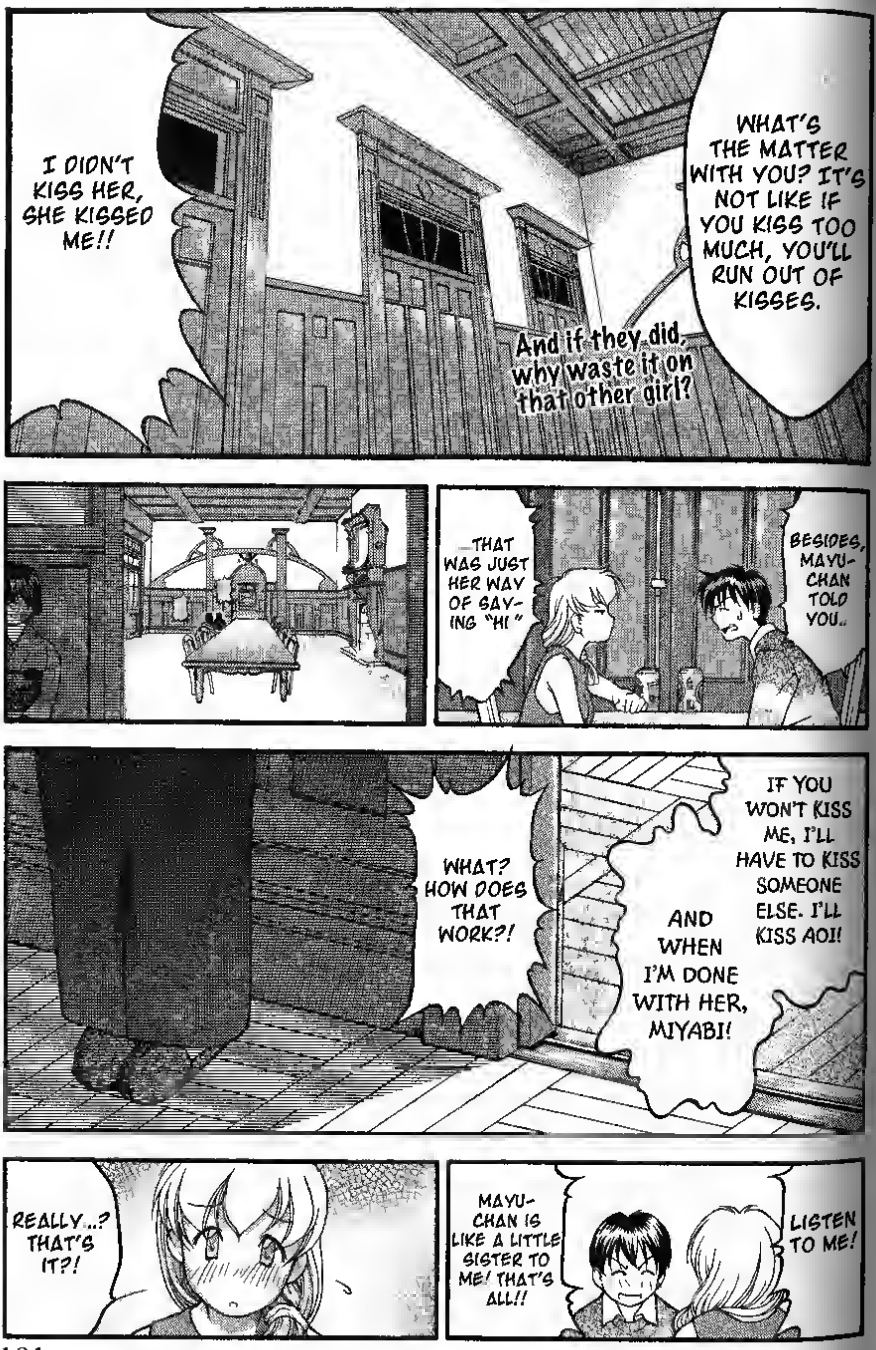
IF...IF MY BOYFRIEND KISSED SOMEONE, EVEN AS A GREETING...
...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAND IT.
IT WAS A GREETING! A GREETING!!
BESIDES, THAT WASN'T A KISS!
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE.
MAYBE TO YOU, BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE A GIRL THINKING OF IT THAT WAY.
.....

You're so cruel!
I was here for you...
...but you kissed someone else!!
...I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
...FACTS IS FACTS I KISSED HER.
SHE'S RIGHT.. EVEN IF THERE WASN'T ANYTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT...
Well, I'm going to go change.
Ah, okay.

I-I'M HOME~
ガチャ
ガチ
OH! WELCOME BACK, KAORU-SAMA! ♡
You must be tired.

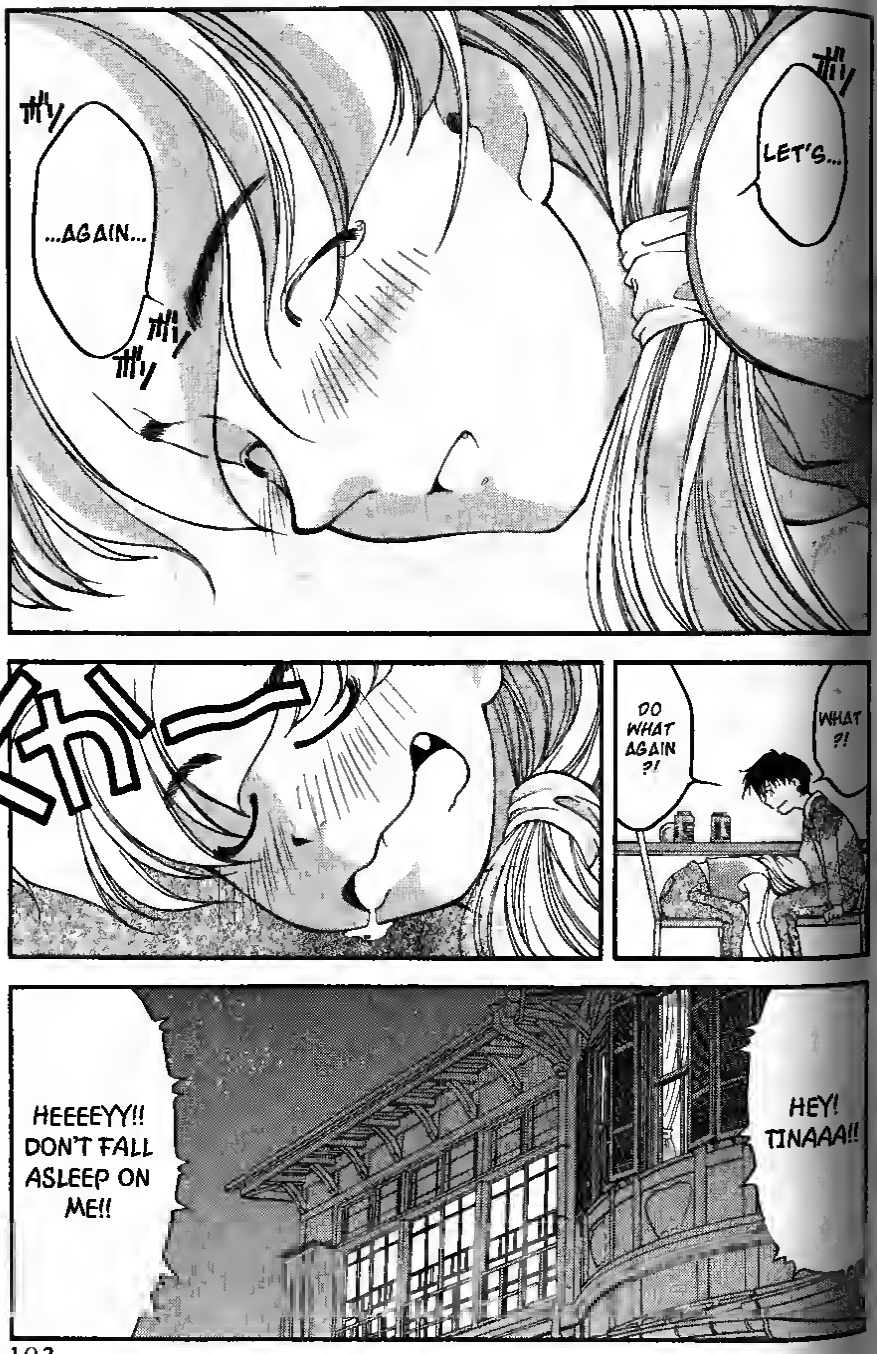
KAORUUU!!
YES?!
UM... AOI-CHAN
ACTUALLY... THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU...
Gahhh?! You reek of booze!
Mr. Tardypants.
It's about time you came back, loverboy!
TINA! YOU SAID YOU WERE COMING HOME EARLY BECAUSE YOU FELT SICK?!
Hee-hee
Ah-ha-ha-ha
SHE WAS LIKE THIS AS SOON AS SHE GOT HOME.
C'mooonnnn, let's drink, Kaoruuuu!

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL MEAL!!
LET'S KISS!!
NN?!
ALL RIGHT, KAORU!!


I DIDN'T KISS HER, SHE KISSED ME!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? IT'S NOT LIKE IF YOU KISS TOO MUCH, YOU'LL RUN OUT OF KISSES.
And if they did, why waste it on that other girl?
—THAT WAS JUST HER WAY OF SAYING "HI."
BESIDES, MAYU-CHAN TOLD YOU..
WHAT? HOW DOES THAT WORK?!
AND WHEN I'M DONE WITH HER, MIYABI!
IF YOU WON'T KISS ME, I'LL HAVE TO KISS SOMEONE ELSE. I'LL KISS AOI!
REALLY..? THAT'S IT?!
MAYU-CHAN IS LIKE A LITTLE SISTER TO ME! THAT'S ALL!!
LISTEN TO ME!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HOW DRUNK ARE YOU?!
WHY~~~?!
IF YOU COULD KISS THAT OTHER CHICK...
...WHY CAN'T YOU KISS ME?!
カチャ
カチャ
カチャ
WAAAH!! YOU IDIOT!!
NNG!
MPH!
.....
スタ
スタ
スタ

.....
YES! THAT'S IT!!
.....
HM?!
KAORU...
KAORU...


LET'S...
...AGAIN...
WHAT?!
DO WHAT AGAIN?!
HEEEEYY!! DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON ME!!
HEY! TINAAA!!

GEEZ~~
I MEAN ...
SHE DIDN'T EVEN SEEM LIKE SHE CARED ABOUT IT AT ALL.
WHAT'LL I DO...? AOI-CHAN FOUND OUT THAT I KISSED SOMEONE ELSE...
COULD IT BE...?
I've decided to break off our engagement, Kaoru-sama...

KAORU-SAMA...
NO, NO, NO! I HAVE TO HURRY AND SET THIS STRAIGHT!
A-AOI-CHAN!!
UM... YOU WANTED TO SPEAK WITH ME...?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT! ACTUALLY... THAT IS...
ABOUT THE GIRL... MY OLD FRIEND I MENTIONED YESTERDAY...

THAT IS... WHETHER I KISSED HER OR SHE KISSED ME...
A-ABOUT THAT... I-IT'S ALL A BIG MIS-UNDER-STANDING
UH-HUH... I HEARD YOU TALKING WITH TINA-SAN EARLIER...
A-ANYWAY... I'M SORRY!!
DON'T APOLO-GIZE.
PLEASE... DON'T...
KAORU-SAMA...

.....
TO HEAR SOMEONE I SO DEEPLY CARE ABOUT SAY HE'S SORRY...
...FOR SOME REASON, IT BRINGS ME MORE PAIN.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN...
...I KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS THAN EVEN YOU DO.

WHATEVER HAPPENS...
...I BELIEVE IN YOU, KAORU-SAMA.
AOI-CHAN... I...
SO... PLEASE
... DON'T APOLO-GIZE

UM... KAORU-SAMA ...?
IT'S OKAY.
ぽん ぽん
UMMM
YOU SEE...
SURE ANY-THING.
I WONDER IF YOU'LL LET ME.. ASK SOMETHING SELFISH...
WHILE I'M ASKING FOR THINGS...
もじ
..UM.. THAT IS...
WHAT I MEAN IS...
WHAT IS IT, AOI-CHAN?!
I-I'M SORRY. NEVER MIND.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME!!
-LET'S DROP IT

COULD YOU PLEASE
...KISS ME...?

IF YOU DON'T TELL, IT'LL BUG ME.
Okay?
NO. WHAT IS IT? I'M LISTENING.
あ

UH, UM...
COULD YOU...
もじ...

ハクー
ハクー
ハクー

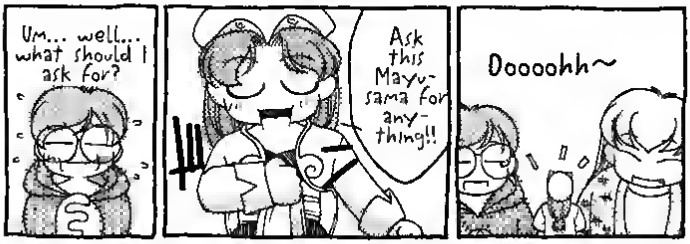
AOI-CHAN...

End of Chapter 34: Seppun—Kiss

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

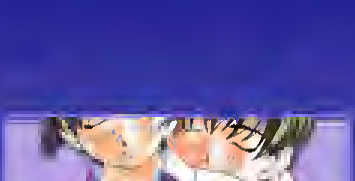
Ai-Ao Theatre, part 8: Wish



To be continued...

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

THERE'S A MAGNITUDE OF DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE KISS OF A STRANGER
AND THE KISS OF THE ONE YOU LOVE



AOI-SAN, I'LL LEAVE THIS HERE, OKAY?
OKAY.
THE AFTER-NOONS ARE STARTING TO GET WARM.
UH-HUH... WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE SUMMER CLOTHES OUT SOON.
ゴソゴソ
ゴソ
AWWW...
PFF! AOI-SAN, LOOK!
ゴソゴソ
ゴロゴロ
ゴロ
ポン
ん〜〜〜〜
ゴロンゴロ

AH HA HA HA
HEE HEE!
THANK, GOOD-NESS...
へた
?!
SHE HAS SOMETHING IN HER MOUTH.
EH?!
HA HA... HUH ?!
EH...? OH, MY... THIS IS...
.....?!

第三十五話　秘鑰―ひやく―

CHAPTER 35: HIYAKU—SECRET KEY

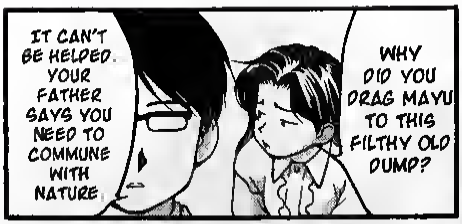
KAO-RUUUU! LET'S GO DO SOME-THING FUN!
Golden Week starts next week.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?!
I WANNA GO, I WANNA GO!
Geez, gimme a break!
I WANT TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH NATURE, OUR VAST AND BEAUTIFUL NEIGHBOR! WE COULD GO TO A SMALL HOTEL WITH A HOT SPRING OR SOME-THING!!
DON'T YOU THINK THEY'D BE ALL BOOKED UP THIS TIME OF YEAR?!
I LIKE THAT IDEA. LET'S GO!
EH?!
.....
ﾋｿﾋｿ

IF YOU WANT A GREAT VIEW AND WARM WATER...
...MY FAMILY HAS A SUMMER HOME THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
あっ
L-LANDLADY-SAN...
ぽん
ぽん
EEEEEE!!
THANK YOU!!
ぽん
ぽんぽん
H-HEY, TINA!!
AH! SORRY, LAND-LADY-SAN
……♪

Day of the trip...
OOF ...
THIS MORNING IT'S A PRETTY SMOOTH DRIVE.
WHEN DID YOU RENT THIS CAR?
You've gotta travel by train.
COOL. NORMALLY I GO PLACES WITH SUZUKI, AND HE ALWAYS WANTS TO TAKE THE RAILROAD.
SO, WHO'S GOING TO DRIVE THE RENTAL?
Tina, do you have a license?!
MIYABI-SAN WILL BE GOING IN HER OWN CAR...
I'LL BE DRIVING!

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, TAEKO-CHAN.
THERE YOU GO. PROBLEM SOLVED.
えへん
PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS TOLD ME I'M A GREAT DRIVER!
HUH?! YOU, TAEKO-CHAN?!
Yes!
WHO EXACTLY HAS TOLD YOU YOU'RE A GOOD DRIVER?!
JUST OUT OF CURI-OUSITY, TAEKO-CHAN—
AND OFF WE GO!
ヴォォォン
YAAAAAA!!
WHAT?!
THE EMPLOYEES AT THE ARCADE, OF COURSE.

キキキキ
EEEE!
HEY, WOW! TAEKO-SAN REALLY IS A GOOD DRIVER!
.....


IT CAN'T BE HELPED. YOUR FATHER SAYS YOU NEED TO COMMUNE WITH NATURE.
WHY DID YOU DRAG MAYU TO THIS FILTHY OLD DUMP?

I WOULDN'T MIND BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE IF HANABISHI-SAMA WAS HERE...

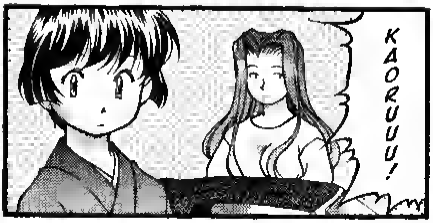
WAAAAAHH! I'M BORED I'M BORED I'M BOOOORED!!

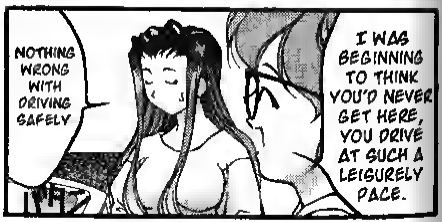
HANA-BISHI-SAMA!!
Hey! Easy now
Tee Hee!

DO YOU WANT TO COME TO MY SUMMER HOME DURING GOLDEN WEEK?!

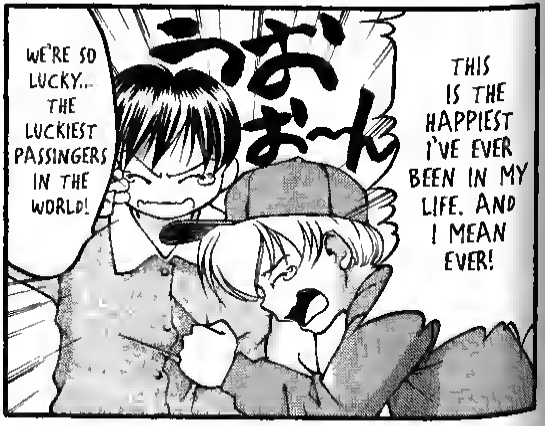
VICTORY ORIN!
NOOOO! Really?!
I-I'M SORRY. I MADE PLANS FOR GOLDEN WEEK YESTERDAY ...
POLT!
AWWW! THIS SUCKS!
I'M REALLY SORRY...
GOD IS TOYING WITH MAYU'S DESTINY...
AOI-SAMA ...
!!

WE'RE HERE.


KAORUUU!


I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D NEVER GET HERE, YOU DRIVE AT SUCH A LEISURELY PACE.
NOTHING WRONG WITH DRIVING SAFELY

WAS RIDING WITH MINAZUKI-SAN AS BAD AS IT LOOKED ...?


うおぉ~ん
WE'RE SO LUCKY... THE LUCKIEST PASSINGERS IN THE WORLD!
THIS IS THE HAPPIEST I'VE EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE. AND I MEAN EVER!

YAAAAAAAA!
I LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES WE ALMOST CRASHED INTO THE GUARDRAIL.
WE SPUN OUT ON TWO SEPARATE CURVES.
WE'RE GONNA DIE!
SHE STALLED THE ENGINE FOUR DIFFERENT TIMES.
YIKES!
WHAT HAPPENED?
YEAH, AMAZINGLY. I THINK WE RAN THROUGH OUR ENTIRE SAVINGS ACCOUNT OF GOOD KARMA THAT ONE TRIP.
AND NOBODY WAS HURT?
I'm never riding with Tae-chin again.
I need to get a driver's license.
...HUH?!
THIS PLACE IS GORGEOUS. LET'S HURRY AND TAKE OUR THINGS INSIDE.

IT'S WEIRD...BUT I THINK...
...I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE
AHI
OR AM I JUST IMAGINING THINGS?

OH, YEAH... THAT'S THE STUFF. I FEEL LIKE A NEW WOMAN.
I KIND OF FEEL BAD, THOUGH, FOR POOR KAORU, HAVING TO BATHE ALL BY HIMSELF. HE'S JUST GOT THE WRONG PLUMBING FOR COMING IN HERE.
チャプ

TINA-SAN!! NO...!
KAO-RUUUUU!! WHATTAYA DOIN'?! WANNA COME IN HERE WITH US?!
B-BUT, HE IS, AND TO TAKE A BATH WITH A MAN...
OH, COME ON. IT'S JUST KAORU. IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S A GUY OR SOMETHING.
TINA... WHY DON'T YOU SHUT YOUR TRAP...?
HAW-HAW, LAND LADY-SAN, YOUR FACE IS BRIGHT RED
I WAS KID-DING!!

NYAAHH!!
TAAAE-CHIN!!
HA-HA-HA!
I can't open my eyes!
OMIGOD, TINA-SENPAI, CUT THAT OUT!!
HAVE YOUR BOOBS GOTTEN BIGGER AGAIN?!
HEY, TAE-CHIN...
IYAAAA!!
TAKE THAT! SLIPPERY ATTACK!

I hate it!
Huuuuge
MY BUST HAS GROWN ABOUT TWO CENTIMETERS THIS YEAR...
UM... WELL... YEAH.
YOU NEED THE SUPPORT OF A FRIEND, SO WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU A HAND HOLDING THEM UP!
More firm, even!
TH-THEY REALLY ARE BIGGER ...
Oohhh!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP FONDLING THEM!!
HM?!
AH...

EEEEE! NO...!
T-Tina you lucky dog...
OOOO-OHHHH, YOUR SKIN IS SO SMOOTH!!
PL-PLEASE, STOP THAT!!
HEY, LAND-LADY-SAN, HAVE YOUR MELONS RIPENED?

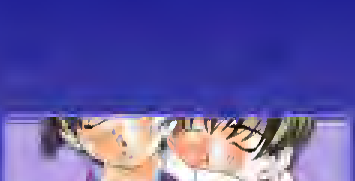
GUESS WHO?!
.....
OH! KAORU-SAMA...
WHAT'S UP, AOI-CHAN?
EEEEEEK!!
A LONG TIME AGO...
HM?!
KAORU-SAMA...

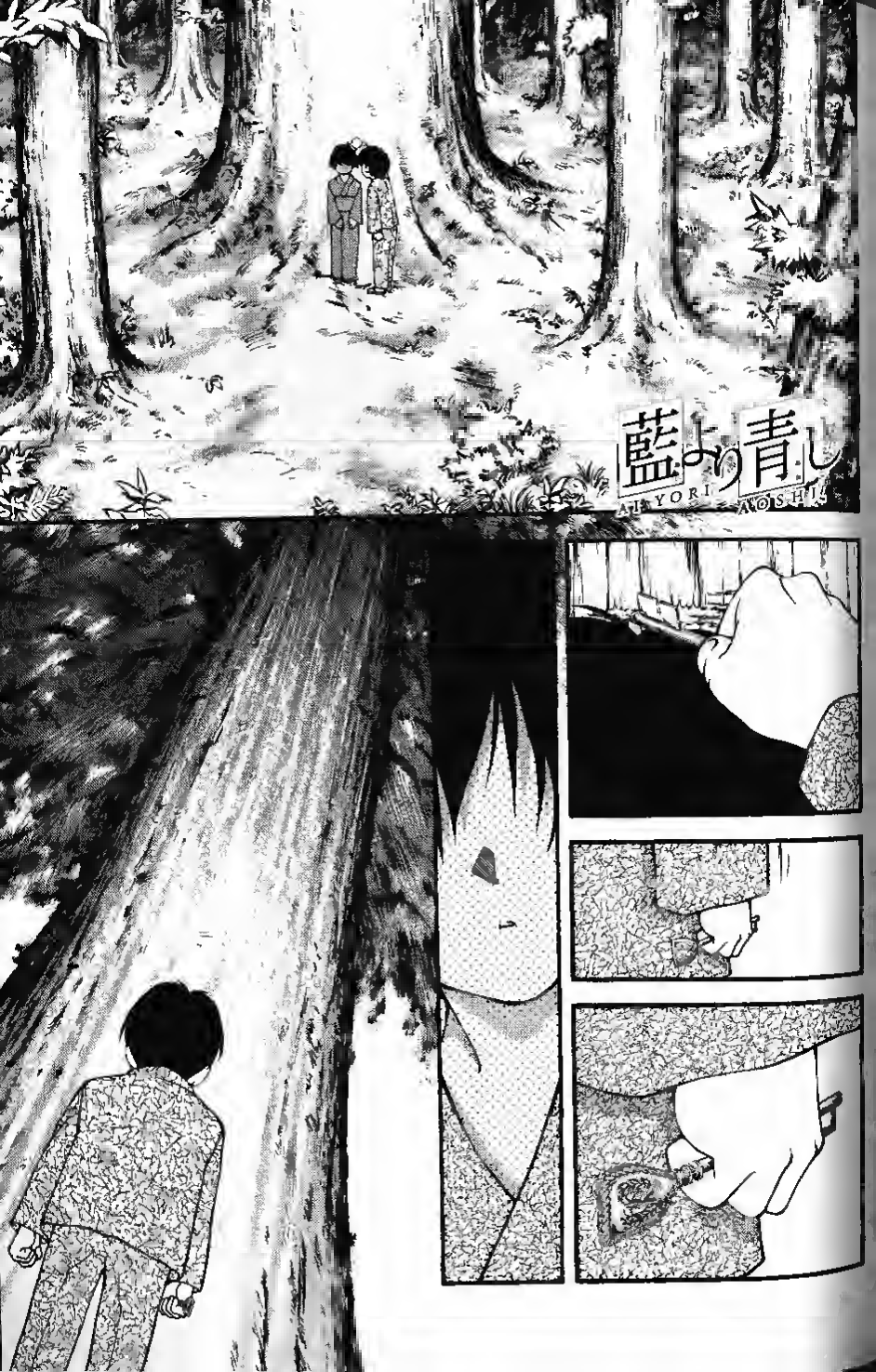
IT'S KIND OF EARLY IN THE YEAR FOR THEM TO BE OUT, BUT IT'S STILL HARMLESS.
Maybe they show up out here first.
IT'S OKAY. IT'S JUST A MOTH.
SHE'S SO CUTE!!
Kaoru-sama!
I-IT SCARED ME!
IT'S GETTING CHILLY OUT HERE.
LET'S GO INSIDE!!
TH-THANK YOU...
O-OKAY...

End of Chapter 35: Hiyaku—Secret Key

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

A HOT SPRINGS RETREAT IN THE OUNTRY,
A NICE PLACE TO RELAX. BUT WILL YOU SURVIVE
THE TRIP GETTING THERE?




藍より青し
AI YORI AOSHI

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第三十六話　太公望―たいこうぼう―

CHAPTER 36: TAIKOUBOU—FISHERMAN

WAAAH! I'M BORED!!
YOU HEAR ME?!
I'M BOORED!!

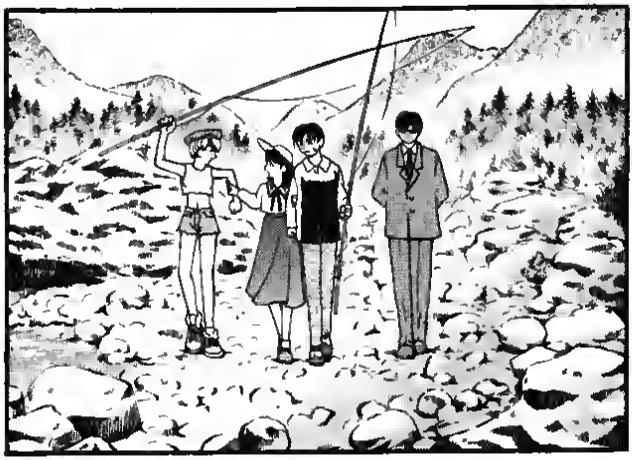
IT'S MY ONE GOLDEN WEEK AS A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD...
ハァ…
オーン
WHY DO I HAVE TO SPEND IT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
ボヤーン
. IF ONLY HANABISHI-SAMA WAS HERE.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH! IT'S MY FATHER'S ORDERS!!
IT'S YOUR FATHER'S
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME!!
ぶん
ぶん
ムキー
ぶん
I KNOW!
YOU'RE SCARING THE FISH AWAY!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?!
DOING!
DOING!
HEY!
HEY!
HEY!
!!

AAAAHH!!
HUH?!
THAT'S MY LINE ...!!
MAYU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
NOPE. NO KADRU HERE.
If he was, why would I tell you?
DOES THAT MEAN HANABISHI-SAMA IS HERE TOO?!
M-MA-MAYU-CHAN?! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
HANA-BISHI-SAMA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HEY-YYY! TINA! DID YOU CATCH ANY-THING?!

Kyaaaaa
YAAAA?! WHAT? WHAT?!
AAGH! KAORU, YOU IDIOT!!
Another sunny day.
So keep your eyes peeled.
...is more of the same, except with scattered thunder-storms amidst the sunshine.
The forecast for tomorrow, May 5th...

WAH!—
WAH!—
KYAA!—

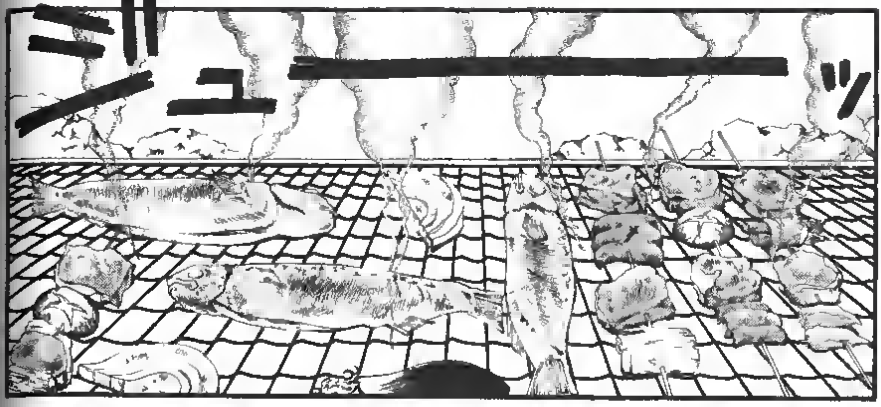


HUH?!
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!

EH...?

Weird coincidence!
NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S THE NEW STUDENT, THE ONE THAT KISSED SENPAI.

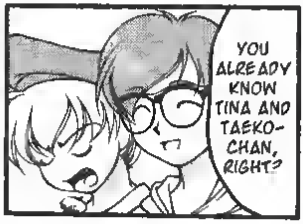
DO YOU KNOW HER?!
THAT GIRL..
What the--?!



UM... I GUESS I SHOULD INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS MAYU MIYUKI-CHAN AND RUKA SAIONJI-SAN.

TODAY IS SUCH A WONDERFUL DAY!! MAYU IS VERY HAPPY!

THEY'RE, UM..


YOU ALREADY KNOW TINA AND TAEKO-CHAN, RIGHT?

Nice to meet you.
THIS IS AOI-CHAN AND MIYABI-SAN.

IT'S SOME KIND OF KISMET! MAYU KEPT THINKING ABOUT HER HANABISHI-SAMA...
キラ
キラ
キラ
...AND GOD REACHED DOWN TO BRING THE TWO OF US TOGETHER!!
Mayu-chan's in her own world, isn't she?
I-IT'S OKAY. I CAN EAT BY MYSELF.
HERE, HANABISHI-SAMA LET'S EAT TOGETHER
Yay!
AH HA HA!
Hanabishi-sama, you're so shy!

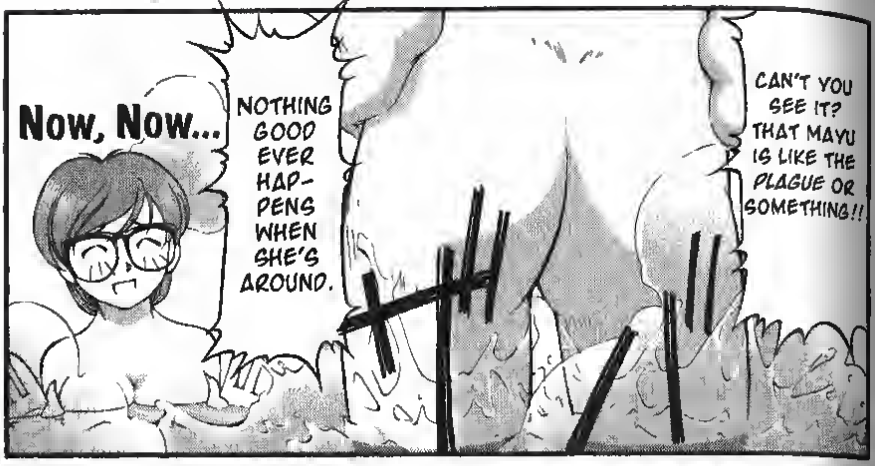
I HAVE MY ENEMY IN MY SIGHTS!
THIS SUCKS!! AND ON GOLDEN WEEK, TOO...
THE GIRL THAT KISSED...
チラ
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET THAT TRAMP HAVE HANABISHI-SAMA!!

Uh-oh... Has the weather turned bad?
Wh-what?!
NN?!
AH! SENPAI!!
WELL, IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
MPH!!
YOU'RE RIGHT!!
Hurry hurry!
WE'VE GOT BITES! LOOK!!

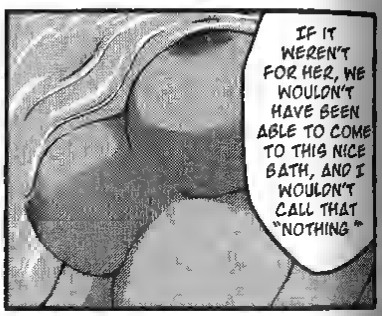
ズル!!
IT'S NO GOOD MY FOOT'S SLIPPING
GOOD LUCK, SENPAI!
HANG IN THERE, KAORU! IT'S A BIG ONE!
バシャ
バチャ
YANK IT!!
ぼにょーん
ALRIGHT!!
OKAY!!
TAE-CHIN, HELP!!
ぼにょ
ぼにょ
WAAAAH! HEY, YOU TWO!!

HANABIGHI-SAMA!
OH, NO!
AHH!!
BRR!
C-C-COOOOLD!!
YOU LOOSENED YOUR GRIP, YOU BIG IDIOT!!
I COULDN'T HELP IT!!
I'LL GO GET TOWELS AND DRY CLOTHES
HANABIGHI-SAMA, I'LL GO WITH YOU. I'LL COMFORT YOU IN YOUR MOMENT OF NEED.
THERE'S A HOT SPRING NEARBY YOU SHOULD GO THERE!
YOU NEED TO WARM UP OR YOU'LL GET SICK.
F-FREEZING...

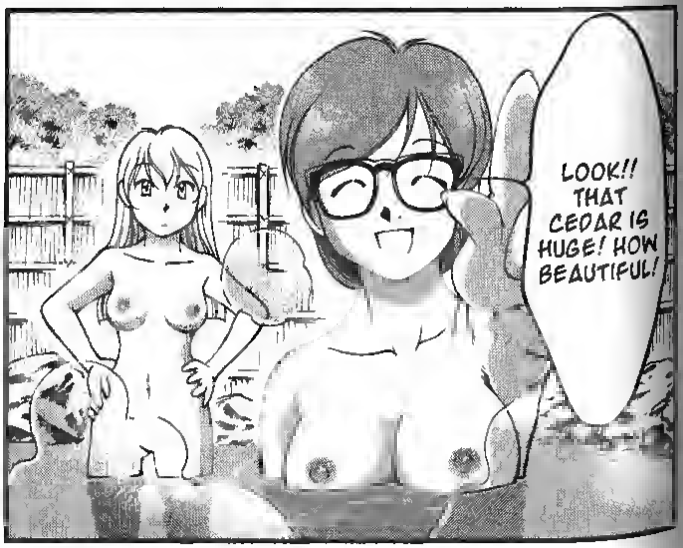
WOO-HOO! IT'S A NATURAL SPRING, RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN AIR!
IT'S SO WARM.
Kawk!
AHHH... SALVA-TION...


Now, Now...
NOTHING GOOD EVER HAP-PENS WHEN SHE'S AROUND.
CAN'T YOU SEE IT? THAT MAYU IS LIKE THE PLAGUE OR SOMETHING!!

I'VE ALWAYS FANTASIZED ABOUT TAKING A BATH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST LIKE THIS..


IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME TO THIS NICE BATH, AND I WOULDN'T CALL THAT "NOTHING"

HUH ?!


LOOK!! THAT CEDAR IS HUGE! HOW BEAUTIFUL!

WHOA! DEJA VU...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.

HANABISHI-SAMA IS SUCH A GREAT GUY. HE'S ONE OF A KIND.
EH...OH, YES...
DON'T YOU THINK SO?!

HUH?!
BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM!!
HE IS, ISN'T HE??!
BECAUSE IT'S FATED THAT HANABISHI-SAMA...
...WILL SWEEP MAYU OFF HER FEET AND MARRY HER.

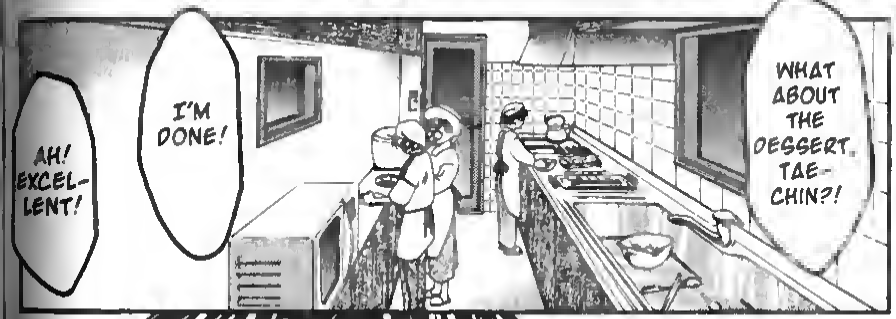
End of Chapter 36: Taikoubou—Fisherman

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY FAMILIAR
ABOUT THIS PLACE...

藍より青し
AI YORI AOSHI
CHAPTER 37
第三十七話
恋慕―れんぼ―
RENBO LOVE

LAND-LADY-SAAAAAAN! IS DINNER READY YET?!
ALMOST! JUST ANOTHER MINUTE!


WHAT ABOUT THE DESSERT, TAE-CHIN?!
I'M DONE!
AH! EXCEL-LENT!

NOW I JUST NEED SOME SNACKS FOR WHEN WE'RE GETTING SLOSHED ...
YOU'RE NOT DONE YET?!
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING?!

No! I want to go with Hanabishi-sama!
WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO COME, BUT YOU THREW A HISSY FIT AND FORCED US!
RADIO
MONDAY
WOT ARRR 'OU 'DING!?!
OH YEAH?! WHO THE HELL INVITED YOU, ANYWAY!?!
I'VE NEVER HAD TO.
MAYU HAS NEVER COOKED IN HER LIFE.
Those who don't work, don't eat.
IF YOU WANT TO EAT, YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT YOURSELF!!
EEEH?! NOOO!!! REALLY?!
YOU KNOW, THAT'S TOO BAD BECAUSE KAORU IS ALWAYS GOING ON AND ON ABOUT HOW A WOMAN AIN'T A WOMAN UNLESS SHE'S GOOD IN THE KITCHEN
あ!!

HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER!
ミシミシ
What terrible cooking...
I DOUBT HANABISHI-SAMA WILL THINK YOU'RE MUCH OF A CATCH, EITHER
They look like they're having fun.
How dare you!
How dare you!
AH HA HA HA
おはは

NOW THAT WE'VE GOT OUR JUICES FLOWING.
MULTI POW
...IT'S TIME FOR THE KING GAME!!
WHAT'S THE KING GAME?!
Mayu's never heard of it
?!
SINCE I HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE RULES, THAT MAKES ME KING.
EVERYONE TAKES A STRAW
BUT DON'T SAY WHAT NUMBER YOU ARE.
TI POWER
Tch! A couple of stiffs
As will I
I'll pass
FIRST, WE'LL DO AN EASY ONE.
NUMBER FOUR, PUT YOUR HEAD IN NUMBER ONE'S LAP!!
HEY! I'M NUMBER FOUR...
NUMBER ONE IS MAYU!

M-MAYU-CHAN, I CAN'T BREATHE...
HANABISHI-SAMAAAA!
♡
カラ
カラ
カラ
MULTI
GET OFF, GET OFF!!
OKAY, OKAY!! NEW ROUND.
NUMBER TWO, GIVE NUMBER FIVE A HUG!
UM... LET'S SEE...
YAY!! I'M THE KING!
Woo hoo!!

ODD... IT'S ME AGAIN.
Mayu is number five
WHO'S NUMBER TWO?!
YAAAAAYY! GOD REALLY IS ON OUR SIDE!!
Gleeah
HOLD ME TIGHT!
NUH UH

AAALLL RIGHT!! I'M THE KING AGAIN!
WHAT-EVER SHALL IT BE...?
フォ
フォ
NUMBER ONE...
GIVE US THE SCOOP ON YOUR FIRST LOVE!
EHHH!?!

WHO WAS IT?! WHO WAS IT?! SPILL!
AOI-SAN! YOU'RE NUMBER ONE!
MY...
MY FIRST LOVE...
MY FIRST LOVE.....
キス
キス
キス
キス

I CAN'T SAY..
NO FAIR, LANDLADY SAN! YOU DREW THE STRAW!
I-I'M SORRY.
BE NICE.
AH HA HA HA. AOI-SAN, YOU'RE AS RED AS A FIRE TRUCK
MAYU CAN SAY HER FIRST LOVE
NO ONE ASKED YOU

……
ジャリ…

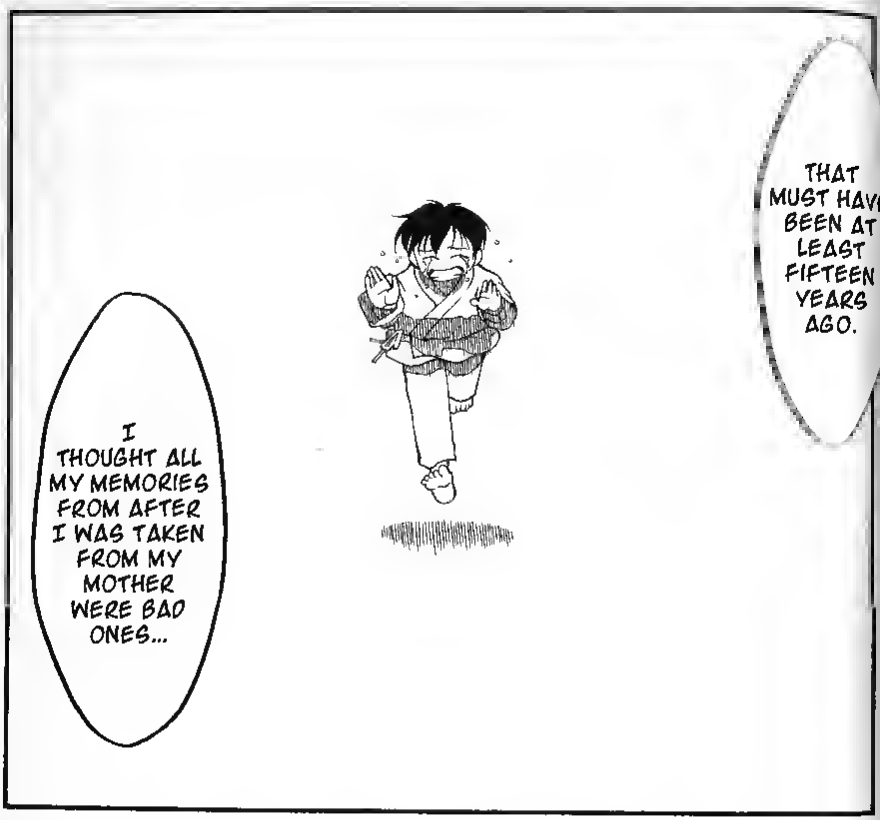
チラ
チラ

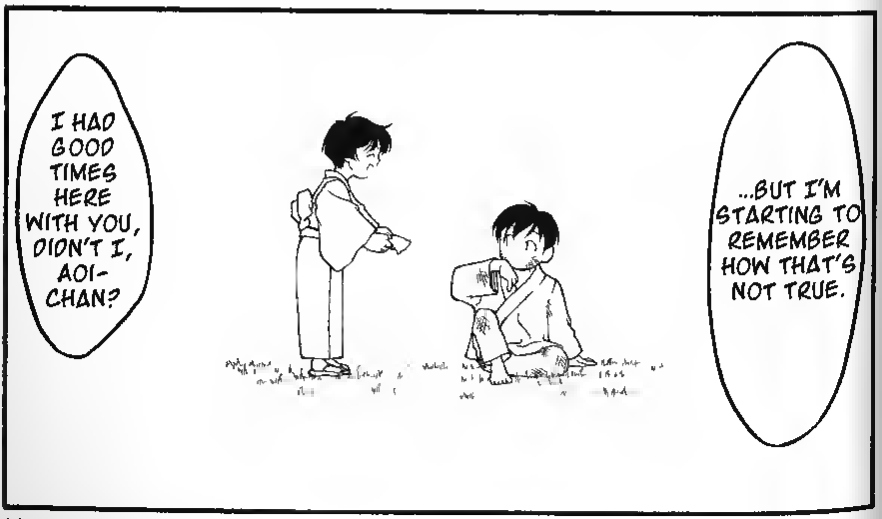
"HANABISHI-SAMA, HANABISHI-SAMA! ♡"
"HE'LL SWEEP MAYU OFF HER FEET AND MARRY HER."
I CAN'T SAY...
MY FIRST LOVE...
...EVEN THOUGH I LOVE HIM STILL.
...AND I CAN'T SAY HIS NAME ALOUD...
HE'S THE FIRST PERSON I EVER CARED FOR...

KAORU-SAMA..
OH... WHAT'LL I DO?

IS THAT YOU, KAORU-SAMA?!
HUH?! AOI-CHAN?!
That voice
I-I BEG YOUR PARDON!!
EEEE!!
HA HA...
TH-THANK GOODNESS. I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMEONE I DIDN'T KNOW...
AH!
IT'S A GORGEOUS NIGHT, ISN'T IT?
YEAH...

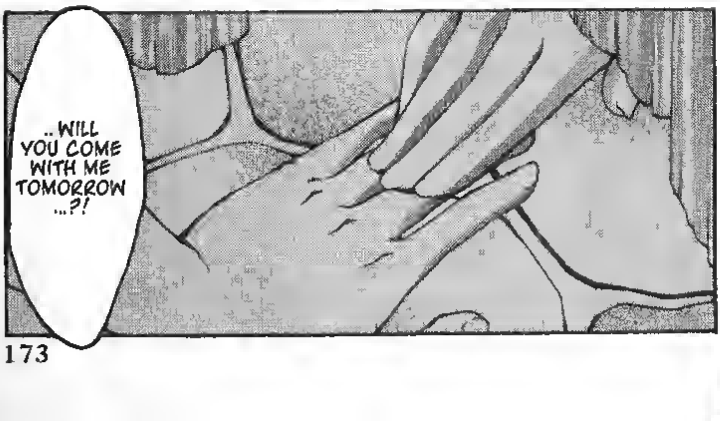
I VISITED YOU HERE BEFORE, DIDN'T I?
AOI-CHAN...
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
It took a little while.
YEAH.
KAORU-SAMA, YOU REMEM-BERED!
...AND IT'S ALSO WHERE WE WERE THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER.
THIS IS WHERE WE MET WHEN WE WERE LITTLE...

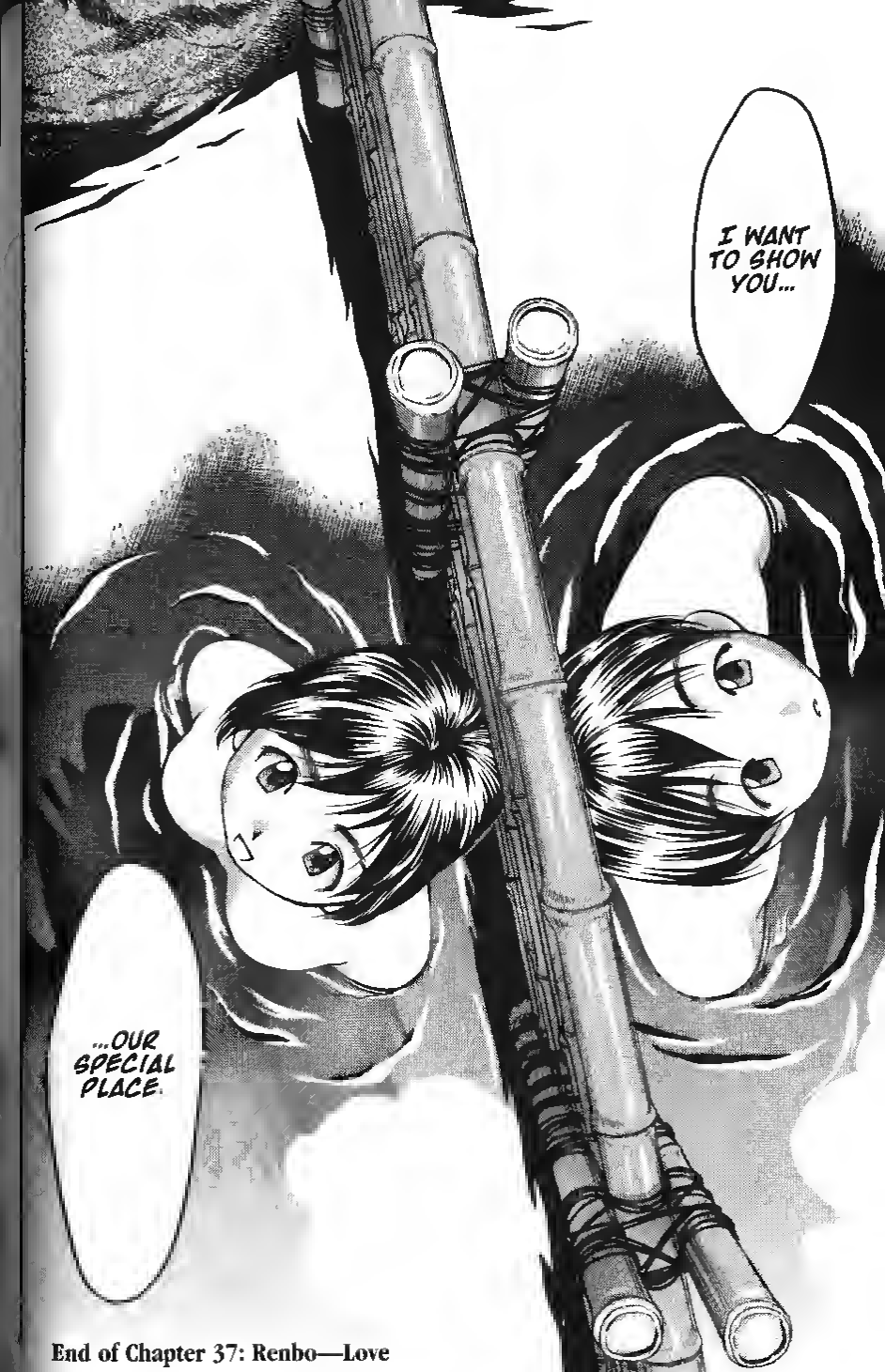

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.
I THOUGHT ALL MY MEMORIES FROM AFTER I WAS TAKEN FROM MY MOTHER WERE BAD ONES...


I HAD GOOD TIMES HERE WITH YOU, DIDN'T I, AOI-CHAN?
...BUT I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER HOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

..DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?!
KAORU-SAMA..
?!
I FOUND IT BACK IN THE HOUSE. IT WAS WITH MY THINGS I HAD IN STORAGE.

チャリン
カラ
カラカラ
ゴソ ゴソ
カラ
カラン
あっ


..WILL YOU COME WITH ME TOMORROW ...?!
KAORU-SAMA..



End of Chapter 37: Renbo—Love

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

NOW I REMEMBER...

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第三十八話　澪標―みおつくし―

CHAPTER 38: MIOTSUKUSHI—CHANNEL MARKER

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, KAORU-SAMA.
Click
YES, KAORU-SAMA!!
GUARDING HEART
ARE YOU READY TO GO, THEN?
Wiggle wiggle
IS THE COAST CLEAR?
YES. THEY'RE ALL STILL WORN OUT AND SLEEPING FROM YESTERDAY.
GUARDING HEART

うふふ♡

Tee Hee Hee!

I PLAN TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORT-UNITY..♡
OKAY..
WE HAVEN'T HAD MANY CHANCES TO BE ALONE RECENTLY..
YEAH, I AM FEELING PRETTY GOOD!
YOU SEEM REALLY HAPPY.

..WE ALWAYS HAD A GOOD TIME..
WHEN WE WERE TOGET-HER..
THEY NEVER LET ME HAVE ANY FUN WITH THE HANABISHI
I REMEMBER WE USED TO HAVE SUCH A BLAST HERE

...YOU AND I MET...?
THE FIRST TIME...
DON'T YOU... .. REMEM-BER?!

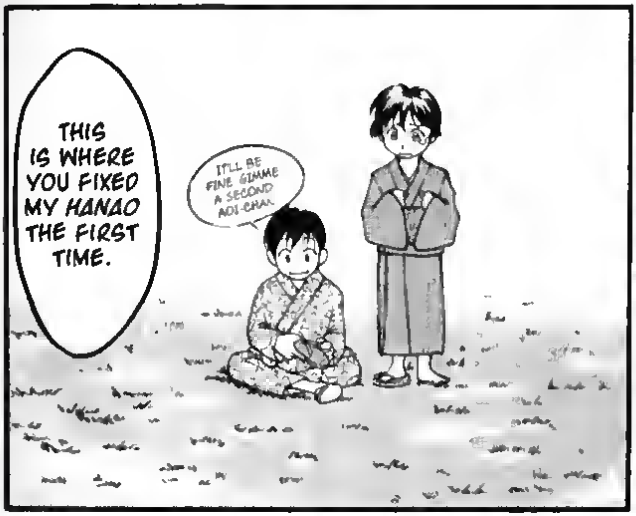
WHEN OUR PARENTS INTRODUCED US...
...I WAS A LITTLE SCARED OF YOU.
BECAUSE BACK THEN...
...YOU HID ALL OF YOUR EMOTIONS. YOU SEEMED COLD.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THE DIFFERENCE WHEN WE CAME HERE!!
THE REAL KAORU-SAMA WAS FULL OF ENERGY AND SO MUCH FUN!
Ha-ha-ha
Wait!
YOU WERE ALWAYS TEASING ME.
Look!
EEK!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE KINDEST PERSON I'D EVER MET.
TH-THANK YOU.
YOU LOOK TIRED. CLIMB ON.
THAT IS... I MEAN...
YOU WERE NERVOUS?!
Really?
I GUESS I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS, TOO.
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, AOI-CHAN..
Did I really do things like that...?
...I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE AN ANTIQUE DOLL.
YOUR HAIR...
...AND YOUR SKIN WERE SO PRETTY.

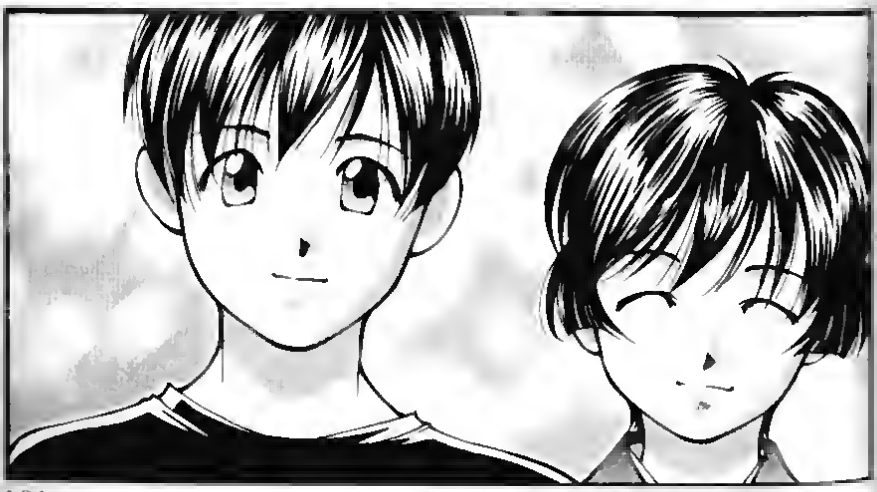
...TO MAKE A GIRL WHO WAS THAT PRETTY LAUGH OR SCREAM.
EYAA-AAH!
LOOK, LOOK, A SNAKE!
I GOT IT INTO MY HEAD THAT IT WAS REALLY FUNNY...
EXCEPT YOU LOOKED SO ALIVE, SO WARM...
.....
AH HA HA HA, I KNOW. SORRY.
I was really scared!!!
WAS THAT WHY YOU WERE SUCH A PEST?
WOW, THE MEMORIES
WE WOULD ALWAYS SWING FROM THIS BRANCH
LOOK!! THAT TREE
I REMEMBER PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH YOU AROUND HERE, TOO.
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD SWING FROM IT NOW
IT'S PRETTY LOW TO THE GROUND
I COULD NEVER FIND YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT.

Waaahh!
Kaoru-samaaaa!

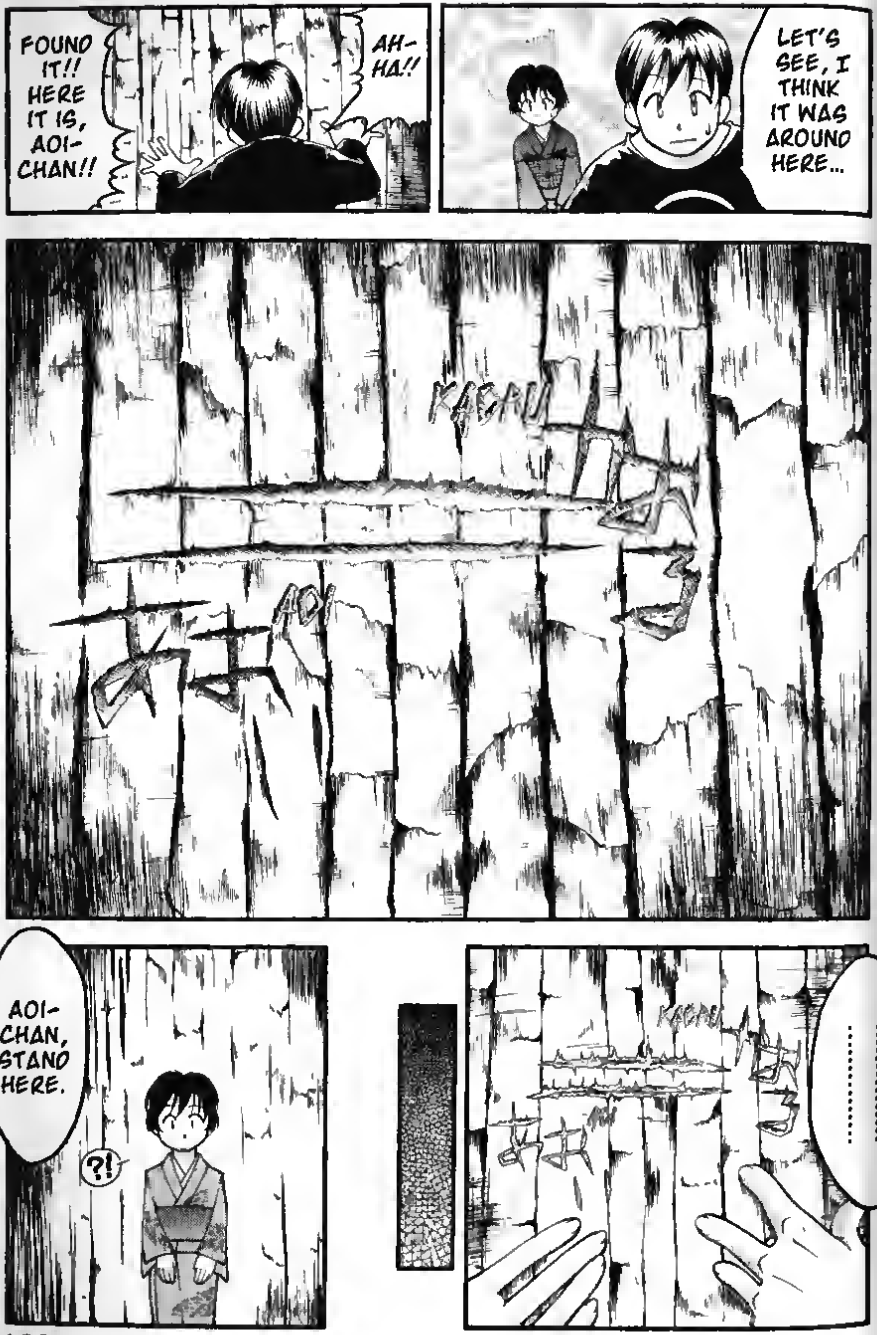
Boo hoo


THIS IS WHERE YOU FIXED MY HANAO THE FIRST TIME.
IT'LL BE FINE. GIMME A SECOND AOI-CHAN.

WHAT'S WRONG, AOI CHAN?



THIS TREE IS JUST AS BIG AS I REMEMBER IT. IT ALWAYS TOWERED OVER US.
WE MADE IT...


FOUND IT!! HERE IT IS, AOI-CHAN!!
AH-HA!!
LET'S SEE, I THINK IT WAS AROUND HERE...
KACHI
AOI
AOI-CHAN, STAND HERE.
?!
KACHI
.....

TA-DA~!
HEH HEH...
ごと...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KAORU-SAMA?
カリ カリ カリ
HOLD STILL.
NO. THIS IS MY TREASURE.
OOOOOH! THAT'S PRETTY!
LET ME SEE, LET ME SEE, KAORU-SAMA!
NUH-UH! ONE MORE TIME! MEASURE AGAIN, KAORU-SAMAAA!
THIS TALL!! YES! I'M TALLER!!
THAT'S HOW TALL YOU ARE, AOI-CHAN
AND I'M...
コリ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S STILL HERE...
KAORU
AOI

AND THE NEXT DAY...
Waaah!
...WAS THE LAST DAY WE WOULD EVER BE TOGETHER.
AOI-CHAN, STOP CRYING
DON'T YOU CARE, KAORU-SAMA?!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE WITH AOI?!
I DON'T WANT KAORU-SAMA TO LEAVE!
I DON'T EVER WANT TO LEAVE AOI-CHAN. I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING...
...BUT...

NO! I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT PLACE!!

……
……
!?

AOI-CHAN!!
ゴリ ゴリ
……
ゴリ

AOI-CHAN!!
I'M LEAVING YOU MY KEY!!
EH?! BUT THIS IS YOUR TREASURE, KAORU-SAMA..?!
YOU CAN HANG ONTO IT FOR ME UNTIL WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
Make sure to give it back!
OKAY? LET'S MEASURE OUR HEIGHTS AGAIN!
Promise?
YES!!
I PROMISE, KAORU-SAMA!!

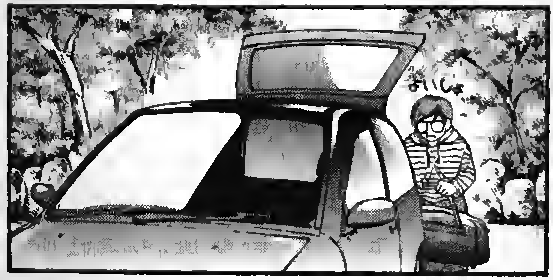
...CAME WITH THE TREASURE BOX...
...MY MOTHER GAVE ME.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH THAT KEY...
IF IT WAS..
...THAT PRECIOUS TO YOU...
REALLY?! BUT...

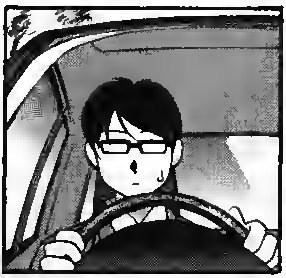
I-I...I DIDN'T KNOW...
...IT WAS SO VALU-ABLE.
I-I'M SO SORRY!
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZ-ING FOR?
...THEY WOULD HAVE BURNED IT WITH ALL THE REST.
IF I HAD TAKEN BACK THE KEY...
THEY BURNED EVERY-THING MY MOTHER EVER GAVE ME.
...TO BE GETTING BACK ONE OF MY MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER.
I'M GLAD...

KAORU-SAMA...
IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU. YOU PROTECTED IT ALL THIS TIME.

THE KEY I'VE BORROWED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS...
...I NOW RETURN TO YOU.
THANK YOU...
...AOI-CHAN.
KAORU-SAMA... I...
...I'M GLAD YOU WERE MY FIRST LOVE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE ELSE HAVING BEEN THE FIRST ONE IN MY HEART.
NOT THE WAY YOU ARE, KAORU-SAMA.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY...
...AOI-CHAN.

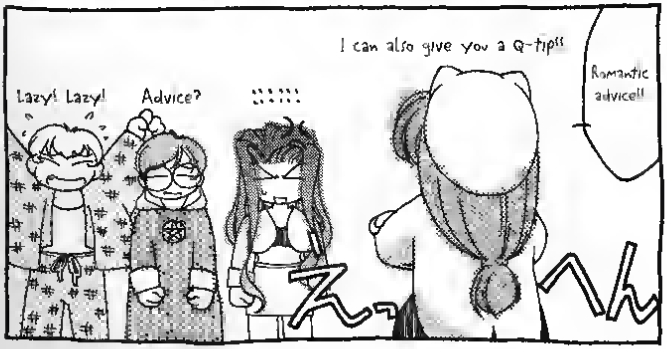




Kaoru and Tina requested that Ruka take the wheel...

End of Chapter 38: Miotsukushi—Channel Markers

Ai-Ao Theatre, part 9: Counseling



THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

THE NEW ARE THE TRUE.

THIS ALSO MARKS THE END
OF THE VOLUME, SO ENJOY.